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27 July 1983

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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CONTENTS

ENERGY ECONOMICS

COLOMBIA

- Italy, France Propose Coal Consortiums
(Juan Alvaro Castellanos; EL ESPECTADOR, 8 Jun 83) 1

COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- Caribbean Economist Looks at Regional Situation
(CANA, 29 Jun 83) 3

BELIZE

- UDP Activities in Belize City, Outlying Areas Reported
(THE BEACON, 2 Jul 83) 12
- UDP Manifesto's Position on Trade Unions Noted
(THE BEACON, 2 Jul 83) 14

BRAZIL

- Maluf Would Quit Race Only in Favor of Pires, Figueiredo
(Joao Emilio Falcao; CORREIO BRAZILIENSE, 16 Jun 83) ... 16
- Biggest Coffee Crop Since 1975 Seen; Growers Pessimistic
(O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 26 Jun 83) 18
- Rains, Drought Force Imports of Foodstuffs
(O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 26 Jun 83) 20
- Briefs
PCB Opposition to CUT 22

CHILE

Exile Optimistic About Increasing Strength of Opposition (Carmen Castillo Interview; LIBERATION, 16 May 83)	23
MAPU Marks 14th Anniversary, Participates in 11 May Protest (EL NUEVO DIARIO, 5 Jun 83)	26

COLOMBIA

Overproduction of Coffee Seen as Serious Economic Problem (Jose Ramon Nunez; EL TIEMPO, 7 Jun 83)	28
Briefs New Missile Launchers	31

CUBA

Castro Plan To Tour Europe Seen at Crucial Stage (Colin McSeveny; CANA, 8 Jul 83)	32
Castro Address To Commemorate Children's Day (Fidel Castro; Havana Domestic Service, 17 Jul 83)	34
Correspondent Reports on Nicaraguan Achievements (Nestor Nunez; Havana International Service, 17 Jul 83)	47

GRENADA

Bishop Addresses Agricultural Workers (St Georges Domestic Service, 30 Jun 83)	49
Briefs IMF Credit	50

GUATEMALA

Agriculture Minister Speaks on Grain Situation (PRENSA LIBRE, 23 Jun 83; DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA, 22 Jun 83)	51
Nicaraguan Exports Cease No Shortage Predicted	

GUYANA

Government Announces Energy Management Program (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 27 Jun 83)	53
--	----

Union Charges GUYMINE With Withholding Food (CANA, 4 Jul 83)	54
Ruling PNC Discerns Destabilizing Forces Behind Troubles (NEW NATION, 5, 12 Jun 83)	55
Plan To Embarrass Government GBC Bomb Scare Foreign Media Sensationalism Opposition 'Opportunists', by P.H. Daly Concerns About Leadership	
Bauxite, Sugar Workers' Strike Draws Support, Concern (Various sources, various dates)	59
Appeal of Four Unions Report on Strike Action TUC Appeal Unity Committee Release Industry Statement Criticism of Antistrike Action	
TUC Special Conference Divided Over Constitutional Issue (MIRROR, 29 May 83)	66
Stand on Food Problem PPP Support for Conference	
Food Shortages Continue as Source of Protests, Unrest (Various sources, various dates)	70
Meeting on Sugar Belt Supplies Supplies for Linden Editorial Comment Rice Crop Appeal Rice Crop Rescue Operation Illegal Rice Dealing Rice Export Situation Panic Buying of Sugar Arrest of Protesters Human Rights Group's Appeal Union Action GAIBANK Boost for Agriculture Region 5 Agricultural Plan	
Media in Mutual Recriminations Over Coverage of Crisis (Various sources, various dates)	79
MIRROR Attack on STANDARD, Editorial PNC Organ's Blast OPEN WORD Slap at MIRROR, Editorial	

MIRROR Rejoinder, Editorial STANDARD Criticism of PNC NEW NATION Reply	
Economic, Other Problems Reported in Various Regions (MIRROR, 29 May, 5 Jun; SUNDAY CHRONICLE, 12 Jun 83)	87
Health Issue in Yarrow Dam West Demerara Situation Crisis in Bartica More Government Decentralization	
Burnham, PNC Leaders Hold Community, Membership Meetings (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 8 Jun 83; NEW NATION, 12 Jun 83)	90
Reid in Linden Meetings With Party Members	
List of Goods OK'd for Bartering Issued by Government (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 3 Jun 83)	92
Government Determination To End Corruption Focuses on Police (Various sources, various dates)	93
Criticism of Bribery Practices PPP Praise for Police Concern for Police Image	
Arrests for Smuggled Food, Contraband Goods Continue (Editorial Report)	95
Joint Peace Committee Against Nuclear War Activated (Various sources, various dates)	96
Formative Meeting CHRONICLE Report WPA Blast at PPP	
Price Increases Announced for Copra, Edible Oil (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 2, 9 Jun 83)	98
Increase of 300 Percent Impact on Industry	
Government Plans Incentives, Lower Costs for Gold Miners (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 4 Jun 83)	100

Briefs		
Visa Racket		101
Harassment of Editor		101
Barter Trade Encouraged		101
Cuban Officials Visit		102
HAITI		
Paper Criticizes Salvadoran Government, U.S. Policy		
(Cassandre Kalim; LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR,		
4-10 Jun 83)		103
HONDURAS		
RNP Submits September Electoral Census Plan to TNE		
(LA TRIBUNA, 11 Jun 83)		105
Capital's Rapid Growth Seen as Problem		
(Juan Ramon Martinez; LA TRIBUNA, 17 Jun 83)		108
MEXICO		
ANACA Calls for Agrarian Reform Legislation		
(S. Lovera, M. Sordo; UNOMASUNO, 8 Jun 83).....		111
NICARAGUA		
FDN Leader Edgar Chamorro Interviewed on Fighting		
(Edgar Chamorro Coronel Interview; Tegucigalpa		
Cadena Audio Video, 22 Jun 83)		114
Briefs		
Italian Solidarity Group		118
IDB Loan		118
Children's Group to Cuba		118
Students Return from Cuba		118
Coffee Exports		118
Women's Battalion Departure		119
USSR Fertilizer Materials Donation		119
New Deputy Minister		119
Austrian Credit Line		119
New Battalion		119
Representative to Prague		119
French Flour Donation		119
Cuban Research Ship		119
Return of Battalion		119
Soviet Medical Aid		120
Donation from Netherlands		120

PANAMA

Cuban Poet Valladares Meets With Paredes (LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, 10 Jul 83)	121
Letter to MATUTINO Warns of Threat to Paredes (Julio M. Aldrete; MATUTINO, 28 Jun 83)	122
Briefs	
Colon Economic Situation	124

PERU

Terror, Inflation Afflicting Country (Enrique Valls; EFE, 11 Jul 83)	125
Details of Attack on Popular Action Headquarters (AFP, 12, 13 Jul 83)	126
Second Death Reported Third Death Reported	
Briefs	
Ayacucho, Pasco Incidents	127

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Daily Apologizes to Barbados' Adams (CANA, 9 Jul 83)	128
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ITALY, FRANCE PROPOSE COAL CONSORTIUMS

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 8 Jun 83 p 9-A

[By Juan Alvaro Castellanos: "Italy and France Propose Coal Consortiums"]

[Text] Colombia has started a feasibility study on expanding coal operations in the country's north through consortiums proposed by France and Italy which are interested in operating in the areas of La Jagua, Ibirico and La Loma, in Cesar, which are believed to contain huge coal reserves.

CARBOCOL [Colombian Coal, Inc.] announced that it would not go ahead with the construction of a camp in the project of the Northern Zone of El Cerrejon and decided instead that the engineers, technicians, and workers could use the facilities available in some nearby towns, such as Barrancas and Papayal, which would receive economic and social benefits.

Proposals

Enrique Danies Rincon, CARBOCOL general manager, stressed the increase in Colombian participation in current operations at El Cerrejon and explained that, according to administrative initiatives, priorities were selected regarding the coal operations in the area, with the enterprise looking for technical, legal, and economic consultation to promote careful management of contracts which the country may sign in the future.

France and Italy proposed the exploitation of coal reserves in Cesar with investment sharing with Colombia to the extent of 50 percent while at the same time guaranteeing that they are able to purchase the output to take care of their own consumption.

"This is a good proposal which we are going to study, starting this week, because it offers not only the advantage of joint operation but also guarantees sales," said Danies Rincon in talking to EL ESPECTADOR at the end of the first day of the forum organized by the Colombian Society of Engineers on the topic "Coal--A National Issue."

Apart from the initiatives aimed at establishing the consortiums mentioned above, CARBOCOL confirmed that there are two more alternatives which were suggested by Mexico and Brazil.

The board of directors of CARBOCOL agreed to establish a committee which will evaluate each of the offers from the four countries mentioned and which will spell out the legal and technical terms to set the dates for the conversations with delegates of the government agencies and private organizations of countries interested in promoting these coal exploitation and sale projects in Colombia.

The share of domestic funds in the El Cerrejon projects and all of the other funds deriving from the product was increased by more than 35 percent in response to requests from the national government.

CARBOCOL indicated that, as of February of this year, the executive committee lifted the ceiling on domestic purchases, thus permitting a larger number of Colombian firms to introduce their quality and technological capacity for proper consideration.

"Although the provisions of Decree 222 of 1983, dealing with public contract processing, do not apply as a general standard to CARBOCOL, we at any rate picked out the aspects pertaining to the use of Colombian funds for our contract negotiating systems," manager Danies pointed out in stressing strict control now in effect to prevent the exclusion of Colombian experts and workers by all possible means.

Colombian engineering and consultant firms have been contracted for in the Northern Zone of El Cerrejon for civil engineering work to be handled by INTERCOR; they are to do work worth 165 million pesos. During the construction and assembly phase and until January 1986, the Colombian engineering firms will continue to participate in various ways since long-term contracts have already been awarded to them with a value of 26,000 million pesos and since items in the amount of 9,000 million pesos have already been purchased from domestic suppliers.

5058

CSO: 3348/479

CARIBBEAN ECONOMIST LOOKS AT REGIONAL SITUATION

Bridgetown CANA in English 2309 GMT 29 Jun 83

[Text] Georgetown, 29 Jun (CANA)--Caribbean community economist, Marie Freckleton, has attributed the marked post-1977 deterioration of the balance of payments position of CARICOM countries to steep increases in import prices, particularly oil, falling export volume, weak prices for major export commodities and rising debt payments.

The assessment done in a private capacity by Ms Freckleton, a staffer of the CARICOM secretariat here, is given in an article in the secretariats latest bulletin.

CANA now reproduces the full text of the article.

"The combined current account deficit of CARICOM countries (excluding Trinidad and Tobago) increased from 231.6 million U.S. dollars in 1977 to 895.1 million U.S. dollars in 1981. The rate of increase was most rapid in the case of Jamaica and Guyana.

Jamaica's current account deficit increased continuously over the period, reaching a level of 426.8 U.S. million dollars in 1981. There was a marked widening of the current account gap in 1981 reflecting a significant increase (26 per cent) in the level of imports during that year.

Over the period 1977-81, the current account deficits were largely financed by official borrowing abroad as inflows of private capital declined drastically. For the years 1978-80, there were actually net outflows of private capital totalling approximately 397.9 million U.S. dollars.

In addition to the slow growth in export earnings and the rising import bill, the balance of payments came under increasing pressure from the outflows of private capital and high debt service payments.

Net foreign reserves declined in every year of the period 1977-81 and the country experienced a critical shortage of foreign exchange which stifled economic growth.

Guyana's balance of payment position has steadily deteriorated since 1977. At the end of 1981, the current account deficit stood at 174.0 million U.S. dollars compared to 28.4 million U.S. dollars at the end of 1978.

Low production levels limited the growth of export earnings while the value of imports increased despite a decline in actual volume due largely to the oil price increases of 1979-80.

In 1980, despite no increase in output, there was a substantial increase in the value of exports by about 31 per cent, due to price increases. However, these incremental earnings were outweighed by the increase in the value of imports.

In 1981, the balance of payments position worsened considerably, due mainly to the effects of the continued decline in export volume (particularly bauxite) and a sharp drop in sugar prices.

Given the low level of private capital inflows, the current account gap has been largely financed by official foreign borrowing. Official capital inflows increased from 291.1 million U.S. dollars in 1979 to 127.3 million dollars in 1981.

With foreign reserves severely depleted and official capital inflows insufficient to fill the resources gap, Guyana was forced to accumulate substantial commercial arrears. As in case of Jamaica, economic growth in Guyana in recent years has been limited by the unavailability of foreign exchange to finance essential imports.

The performance of the balance of payments of Barbados was more favourable than that of Jamaica and Guyana.

After recording a current account deficit of 51.6 million U.S. dollars in 1977, the current account position improved in the years 1978-80, due mainly to increased earnings from tourism and exports of manufactured goods.

Capital inflows in 1978-80 were more than sufficient to cover the current account gaps of those years, and this resulted in an accumulation of net foreign reserves.

The high level of private capital inflows in those years was mainly for direct investment in the tourism and manufacturing sectors.

In 1981 the balance of payments position deteriorated sharply. An overall balance of payments deficit of 19 million U.S. dollars was recorded compared to overall surpluses in the years 1978-80 and the current account deficit was sixteen times greater than that for 1980.

Weak performances in the sugar industry and the tourism sector were mainly responsible for this marked deterioration, foreign exchange reserves declined in 1981 for the first time since 1977.

Trinidad and Tobago consistently recorded balance of payments surpluses over the period 1977-81 due to the earnings from its petroleum industry.

However, the current account surplus in 1981 was lower than that for 1980, reflecting a sharp fall in the volume of crude oil exports.

The surpluses on both current and capital accounts have resulted in a substantial buildup of foreign reserves.

At the end of 1981 net foreign reserves stood at 3,198.8 million U.S. dollars. While the overall balance of payments performance has been very favorable, the non-oil current account has deteriorated markedly over the period, with the deficit increasing by 136 per cent from 730.8 million U.S. dollars in 1977 to 1,727.0 million U.S. dollars in 1981.

In the case of the LDCs, most countries faced persistent current account deficits over the last five years. The deterioration was most marked for Antigua and Saint Lucia.

Rapid import growth over the period was largely responsible for the widening current account deficits. In 1980-81, however, the position was worsening by slow growth in earnings from tourism and major export commodities.

The principal reasons for the marked deterioration in the balance of payments of CARICOM countries were the steep increases in import prices (particularly oil), declining export volume, weak prices for major export commodities and rising debt service payments.

CARICOM countries depend heavily on imported food, raw materials and capital goods. Consequently, the value of imports has continued to increase even where countries are faced with declining export earnings.

The sharp increases in import prices, particularly oil, severely affected the balance of payments position of the dependent CARICOM economies. Those countries which are heavily dependent on imported fuel have been burdened with rapidly increasing fuel bills.

In 1980, for example, fuel accounted for 38 per cent in Guyana.

For the region as a whole, export volume declined in most sectors over the last five years. Sugar output declined in most countries as the industry was plagued by declining productivity and production problems.

In 1981, total sugar output for the region was at the lowest level in 30 years.

In the mining sector, bauxite and alumina exports have been adversely affected by various factors.

In the case of Jamaica, production began to decline in 1975-76 as the transnational companies reacted to the production levy which had been imposed in 1974. Reductions in the levy rates in 1979 resulted in modest increases in exports in 1980.

In 1981, however, bauxite/alumina production declined sharply due to the effects of the slump in the world aluminum industry.

The Guyanese industry has also been affected by the decline in world demand for bauxite, as well as by domestic production problems.

Persistent production problems have caused Guyana to lose a substantial part of its world market share of calcine bauxite.

The tourism industry which is an important foreign exchange earner for Jamaica, Barbados and some of the LDCs, has also experienced difficulties in recent years due to the recession in the industrial countries.

In addition to the problems of declining export volume and slow growth in tourist earnings, countries now face a worsening of the terms of trade, largely as a result of the sharp decline in international prices for sugar.

The current account deficits have been largely financed by running down reserves and by foreign borrowing.

The decline in reserves was most marked in the case of Jamaica. Low levels of private capital inflows have resulted in heavy reliance on official borrowing by Jamaica and Guyana.

These countries have faced burdensome debt service payments, not only because of the rising debt levels but also because they have had to resort to private capital markets where loans usually carry higher interest rates and shorter maturities. Table 11 shows external debt indicators for the CARICOM MDCs.

Adjustment policies:

This section outlines the attempts at balance of payments adjustments in Jamaica, Guyana and Barbados over the last five years.

The critical shortage of foreign exchange and the inability to secure adequate capital inflows, forced the government of Jamaica to enter into agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1977, 1978 and 1981. The balance of payments policies pursued over the period were therefore largely determined by the terms of those agreements.

In 1977, a stabilization programme was introduced which included intensified import restrictions, foreign exchange budgeting, wage guidelines and a dual exchange rate system.

This programme formed the basis for a stand-by arrangement with the IMF. Under the terms of that agreement, performance tests had to be satisfied in relation to net banking system credit to the public sector, net domestic assets of the Central Bank, and new foreign indebtedness.

However, the government was allowed to maintain price controls and subsidies, as well as the dual exchange rate system.

The programme was terminated at the end of 1977 and a new extended fund-facility (EFF) arrangement was negotiated.

The EFF agreement which was concluded in May 1978 provided for a loan of approximately 240 U.S. million dollars over a three-year period.

The conditions of the agreement included drastic devaluation of the Jamaica dollar (the dual exchange rate system was unified, representing a 47 per cent devaluation on the basic rate and 15 per cent devaluation on the special rate: in addition, there were to be mini monthly devaluations totalling about 15 per cent over 12 months), reduction of the fiscal deficit, wage ceilings, ceilings on net domestic credit to the public sector from the banking system, elimination of arrears in current international payments and price liberalization.

The programme was suspended after Jamaica failed to realize certain performance targets at the end of 1979.

In 1981, Jamaica embarked on an economic recovery programme supported by a new EFF agreement with the IMF and a World Bank structural adjustment loan.

The key component of the recovery programme is the promotion of export-oriented production to generate increased flows of foreign exchange, thereby reducing the reliance on emergency balance of payments support.

Under the terms of structural adjustment loan, the government is committed to ensuring the competitiveness of Jamaica's export through wage moderation and the elimination of quantitative restrictions over a five-year period commencing 1982.

Measures are also being put in place to ensure efficient allocation of foreign exchange within the economy. These include de-criminalizing the informal foreign exchange market and simplifying the import licensing system.

Guyana has attempted to strengthen its balance of payments by means of wide-spread import restrictions, foreign exchange budgeting and the expansion of import substitution and export-oriented activities.

As in the case of Jamaica, balance of payments policies in Guyana have been influenced by the terms of agreements with the IMF.

Guyana sought balance of payments support from the IMF under a stand-by arrangement in 1978. This was succeeded by an EFF arrangement in 1979.

When this arrangement failed to adequately restore balance because of acute production problems, a new EFF agreement was negotiated but this was subsequently terminated. In mid-1981, Guyana resorted to devaluation of the currency (by about 15 per cent) and an attempt to halt the decline in foreign exchange reserves.

Barbados succeeded in stabilizing its balance of payments (albeit temporarily) over the period 1978-80. This was due chiefly to an expansion of real exports, a rate of increase in imports that was less rapid than the rate of increase in exports and adequate inflows of foreign capital.

Overall balance of payments surpluses resulted in an increase in reserves levels in this period. In 1981, however, the balance of payments situation deteriorated as earnings from exports (particularly sugar) declined.

The stabilization policies introduced in response to this deteriorating included an increase in official foreign borrowing and the use of selective credit controls.

Restrictions have been imposed on credit to consumers and the distributive sector in an attempt to curtail the growth of imports. There have also been increases in the average lending rate and the Central Bank general discount rate.

Assessment of the policies:

It is widely acknowledged that the balance of payments crisis facing CARICOM countries is the result of the heavy external dependence of the economies.

Adjustment policies should therefore be designed to bring about structural changes which allow for greater flexibility in response to changes in the external economy. It is in this context that the efficacy of the present stabilization and adjustment policies must be examined.

The major policies examined here are devaluation, import restrictions, restrictive monetary and fiscal policies, and the expansion of both import substitution and export oriented activities.

Theoretically, devaluation should cause a country's products to become cheaper vis-a-vis other countries, hence exports are encouraged and imports (which become more expensive) are discouraged.

However, the structure of CARICOM economies severely limit the benefits that can be derived from devaluation. A large portion of exports consist of primary products which are sold under contractual arrangements.

Furthermore, structural rigidities limit the ability of the export sector to respond quickly to whatever increase in demand results from lower relative prices.

In the case of manufactured exports, expansion of output requires imported inputs--the price of which would be increased by the devaluation. On the other hand, the regions imports are mainly raw materials and intermediate goods for which demand is fairly inelastic.

Price increases will, therefore, not result in any significant reduction in the level of imports. Rather, there is more likely to be significant increases in the rate of inflation as the import price increases are fed throughout the economy.

As mentioned earlier, the devaluation strategy has been tried in both Jamaica and Guyana. In both countries, it was expected that devaluation would channel resources away from import consumption and into investment.

Further, in the case of Jamaica, devaluation was expected to improve the price competitiveness of the export manufacturing and tourism sectors. However, in both countries devaluation failed to produce the desired results.

Reductions in import consumption were achieved by rigid import controls rather than by the import price increases brought about by devaluation.

In Jamaica, the manufacturing sector failed to respond due to the unavailability of foreign exchange and the higher price of imported inputs (in 1978 raw materials including fuel, accounted for 62.5 per cent of Jamaica's total imports: the import price increases therefore significantly affected the cost of locally manufactured goods).

The main effects of the devaluation in both countries were significant increases in the domestic rate of inflation. The overall assessment therefore is that devaluation as an adjustment policy is of very limited usefulness in the context of CARICOM economies.

Import restrictions have been very effective in limiting the rate of growth of (legal) imports in Guyana and Jamaica.

However, new investment and the expansion of foreign exchange earnings capacity are highly dependent on imported inputs. It would seem therefore that severe import restrictions in this context are counter-productive in the long run.

Selective restrictions designed to curtail the consumption of non-essential imports might be more practical.

Restrictive monetary and fiscal policies are designed to affect the balance of payments through the level and composition of demand.

Selective credit controls are particularly useful for limiting the growth of imports in certain sectors.

However, monetary the balance of payments. [sentence as printed]

Of course, the analysis cannot be conclusive at this stage because an assessment of other variable such as timing, unanticipated shocks and so on, have not been included here. [word indistinct] imports substitution and export expansion have been emphasized as means of improving the balance of payments. Import substitution is supposed to reduce the level of imports required to satisfy domestic demand, while export expansion is seen as a means of increasing earnings of foreign exchange.

The IMF programmes and World Bank structural adjustment programmes strongly support the export-led strategy. It would seem however that such policies could continue, and perhaps even increase, the dependence of the region on the outside world.

The strategy of import substitution has so far had to rely heavily on imported inputs, while export expansion is dependent on external demand. This increased dependence could mean even more intractable balance of payments difficulties of external origin in the future.

The balance of payments problem in CARICOM is not temporary. Forecasts of continued recession in the world economy indicate that CARICOM economies will continue to face serious balance of payments difficulties in the short-medium term.

So far, attempts at managing the balance of payments problem have not been very successful. There is therefore an urgent need for the formulation of more appropriate strategies.

Some countries may seek to secure additional foreign financing to achieve stabilization, but this is only a short-run solution. Moreover, the conditions prevailing in the international economy indicate that official development assistance is unlikely to increase and the terms and conditions of new borrowing are likely to be onerous.

In the long-run, balance of payments policies must be so designed as to address the structural weaknesses of the economies. In this context, the present policy of export expansion needs to be re-examined.

In addition to expanding real export so as to earn foreign exchange, there is also a need to ensure the greatest possible use of regional inputs so as to reduce dependence on imports.

The export expansion strategy also needs to be complemented by more vigorous market research to ensure that production is compatible with international demand, ultimately, the success of export expansion strategies will depend on the ability to penetrate third country markets.

It would seem necessary that CARICOM countries seek to find markets in countries other than the traditional trading partners. In addition, there is a need to closely examine present policies on technology in the export manufacturing sector.

It must be recognized that technology is a major factor influencing both quality and price, and that CARICOM's ability to compete with other producers for a fixed market will depend largely on the extent to which modern technology is developed or acquired and applied in the production process.

Serious consideration must be given to changing the present export base in the long run. Though there have been attempts at diversifying the export sector, the region [is] heavily dependent on a few export commodities.

The heavy reliance on sugar in particular, places the [word indistinct] [highly] volatile market seem to make sugar an unlikely industry on which significant earning expectations should be based.

Finally, CARICOM countries [word indistinct] from a collective approach to the problem of balance of payments adjustment. There is scope for the expansion of export capacity through improved scarce resource allocation and an effective regional approach to the division of labour.

The initiatives taking place, for example, in regional industrial programming, are elements of such an approach and this should be intensified.

CSO: 3298/1290

UDP ACTIVITIES IN BELIZE CITY, OUTLYING AREAS REPORTED

Belize City THE BEACON in English 2 Jul 83 p 6

[Article from paid advertisement headed "UDP BULLETIN, Vol 1, No 6 [as published]," and noting that "views expressed therein are not necessarily those of THE BEACON"]

[Text]

TOLEDO: A public meeting was held at Punta Gorda Town on Friday, June 10. Travelling to Toledo for this meeting were the Party Leader Senator Manuel Esquivel, Deputy Leader Hon. Curl Thompson and Secretary General Senator Elodio Aragon. The crowds were also addressed by the Hon. Charles Wagner, Representative for Toledo South. Mr C.J. Avilez was chairman of the meeting. Speakers dealt with the serious economic situation down South as well as nation-wide, and also spoke on the crisis situation that has arisen in the government. Calls were made for the Prime Minister to act in response to charges from his ministers that their fellow ministers in the Cabinet were either corrupt or communist, or both. On Thursday the Party

Leader also held a meeting with members of the Women's Pioneers and other Party supporters in Punta Gorda. Addressing this meeting was the Area Representative Honourable Charles Wagner and Mr. Edwin Morey, former representative for Toledo North.

STANN CREEK: On June 11 officers from the Central Party Office, including the Leader, Deputy Leader, and Secretary General, held meetings in Mango Creek and Dangriga with members of the Party committees in these two localities. In Dangriga the officers also had the opportunity to visit the new meeting hall and recreation centre of the UDP. The Party committee in Dangriga are to be congratulated for the successful opening of

this Party Centre. Located in an ideal spot with a view of the beautiful sea, this new hall is just the thing for meetings or just plain relaxation and enjoyment.

BELIZE CITY: On Thursday of last week and Monday of this week Party Officers Senator Manuel Esquivel, Hon. Curl Thompson, Mr. Sam Rhaburn, and Mr. Frank Lizama combed the City in a roving vehicle urging citizens to become registered if they

had not already done so. On Thursday the vehicle toured the South side and on Monday the North side. An interesting turn of events occurred as the Party Officers found themselves being trailed by a wagon-load of Policemen. Since they did not declare their purpose for trailing behind the Party vehicle, we can only form our own conclusions from this KGB type of Police activity.

CSO: 3298/745

UDP MANIFESTO'S POSITION ON TRADE UNIONS NOTED

Belize City THE BEACON in English 2 Jul 83 p 7

[Article from paid advertisement headed "UDP BULLETIN, Vol 1, No 6 [as published], "and noting that "views expressed therein are not necessarily those of THE BEACON"]

[Text]

IN each issue of the BULLETIN we will take one topic from our Manifesto and expand on it so that readers might have a clear knowledge and understanding of UDP policies. This week we will look at:

TRADE UNIONS: "SUPPORT FOR UNIONIS: The UDP government will give full support to the right of workers to promote their welfare through the Trade Union Movement. A modern Labour Code will be drafted to ensure that the worker does not become a mere tool in the hands of either his employer or his union."

In the working of a democracy, it is important that there be checks and balances which allow the greatest amount of freedom while at the same time preserving the

rights of all concerned. These checks and balances arise when individuals with common interests come together to defend their rights and freedoms so that no single individual or group can infringe upon the rights of others with impunity. This process of checks and balances should begin at the very top, which is why we have Government and Opposition. It should also operate in the private sector. Employers need to come together to protect their rights, and workers need to come together to protect their rights. The trade unions are the legitimate means whereby workers can defend their rights. But if workers' rights are to be defended by the trade unions, then those trade unions must be truly re-

representative of the workers and their wishes. As in every organisation, there exists the problem that a highly vocal few tend to determine everything, and the 'silent majority' get ignored. A modern labour code is needed to ensure that the voice of the workers will be heard in determining the functioning of their unions. Also, with rights come responsibilities, and both must be clearly recognised by employers and workers. A modern labour code is needed to set out the rights as well as the responsibilities of employers and workers. The more clearly these can be determined, the less chances there will be for costly disputes and employer-worker antagonism. It must also be recognised that Government is the

largest employer in Belize, and there is a clear need to define the role of union, management and workers in the public service. The rights of workers in the public service cannot be any less than those of workers in the private sector, although their responsibilities may have special character. Similarly, the rights of Government cannot be less than those of the private sector employer, but again, Government's responsibilities have a character not quite the same as those of the private sector employer. The labour laws of Belize are out-dated, and have only been patched here and there to accommodate specifics. We of the UDP pledge a complete review of the labour laws in order to bring them into the 1980s.

CSO: 3298/745

MALUF WOULD QUIT RACE ONLY IN FAVOR OF PIRES, FIGUEIREDO

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 16 Jun 83 p 4

[Article by Joao Emilio Falcao, political editor: "Maluf Yields Only to Pires and Figueiredo"]

[Excerpt] Deputy Paulo Maluf (PDS [Social Democratic Party]-SP [Sao Paulo]) asserted to Army Minister Gen Walter Pires that he will withdraw his candidacy for president of the republic only if President Figueiredo runs for reelection or if the army minister himself is the choice. Maluf feels he has the same rights as any other candidate and, except for these two possibilities, he will stay in the race.

Deputy Paulo Maluf reiterated this position at a meeting with the presiding officers of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, Senator Nilo Coelho (PDS-PE [Pernambuco]) and Deputy Flavio Marcilio (PDS-CE [Ceara]), at the latter's home. Before that meeting, held Tuesday evening, Maluf had been informed that President Figueiredo had said he would not veto any candidate.

Right

The former Sao Paulo governor feels offended by the treatment he has received from some sectors recently, in spite of his always having sought to give total support to the government and the PDS. He reminds his listeners that he has never been lacking at any time and for this reason he does not understand why there is so much animosity against him. He considers himself a polite but self-respecting person, and does not take kindly to being humiliated.

This is the same position he took when running for governor of Sao Paulo against Laudo Natel, Planalto Palace's preferred candidate. He would have been willing to drop out, but not to be treated disrespectfully. It was then Air Force Gen Delio Jardim de Mattos, now air minister, who went to him on behalf of the future President Figueiredo.

In conversation with the PDS chairman, Senator Jose Sarney (MA [Maranhao]), and also with Nilo Coelho and Flavio Marcilio, Deputy Paulo Maluf stressed the fact that they had sent him a document pledging support to the president of the republic for him to sign, through an office boy. PDS leaders deny that they were treating the former Sao Paulo governor disrespectfully. It is simply that, because he was not in Congress, they called him on the telephone. They contend, in fact, that it was an honor to have been sent the document.

Merits

In conversation with his closest friends, Deputy Paulo Maluf flatly denies any charges made against him on ethical grounds. Not only does he repudiate such accusations, but he contends that in this area he owes nothing to any of the other presidential hopefuls mentioned by the press.

That being the case, he believes he has a right to present his candidacy at the PDS convention that will choose the future president of the republic. This right was explicitly recognized by chamber president Flavio Marcilio in the speech he made thanking journalists for the testimonial they gave in his honor. According to Marcilio, they were trying to create an artificial crisis to hinder the process of democratization.

Never has Deputy Paulo Maluf intended to give his candidacy the character of opposition to the president of the republic. On the contrary, he is devoted to keeping the party united. This is the reason why he advised his friends not to support the "Participation" slate that was being organized by Deputy Theodorico Ferraco (PDS-ES [Espirito Santo]).

8834

CS0: 3342/139

BIGGEST COFFEE CROP SINCE 1975 SEEN; GROWERS PESSIMISTIC

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Jun 83 p 27

[Text] Porto Alegre--A large coffee crop is being harvested, expected to be the largest since the 1975 frosts, but even this is not making the coffee growers optimistic. In exporting a bag of coffee, the IBC [Brazilian Coffee Institute] makes more money than the producers themselves, who, due to the high costs of recent years, are complaining about the lack of profitability and are asking, to sustain the market, for a support price of 46,000 cruzeiros per bag. So far the government has not said yes or no. According to exporters, the IBC made a proposal to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce [MIC] for a price of 36,900 or 37,000 cruzeiros, while the cooperatives claim to have information that the MIC is studying an amount over 42,000 cruzeiros, close to their own request. The decision should be announced this week, maybe by Wednesday.

As to the figures, there is still disagreement: Oripes Rodrigues Gomes of the National Coffee Council of the Parana Central Agricultural Cooperative announces that the forecasts of the producers are close to those made by the IBC, which are for a national crop of 29.2 million bags; broker and producer Jose Roberto Tavares de Menezes, manager of the Marrekinho Organization, who has just canvassed the plantations of Minas Gerais, Sao Paulo and Parana, expects output of 31.5 million bags, close to the forecast of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Moreover, disagreement extends to the losses that have occurred so far: Jose Roberto does not expect a significant shortfall, reporting that the loss of quality in Parana could have affected at the most 20 percent of the crop, while Oripes Gomes is more pessimistic. According to his estimate, 10 percent of the expected output is hopelessly damaged, which would mean nationally about 3 million bags, whereas the IBC predicts a loss of between 5 and 7 percent. In Parana and some regions of Sao Paulo, according to Oripes Gomes, 40 percent of the crop is of damaged quality and in Espirito Santo, 20 percent, due to drought.

In Parana, although the harvest began several weeks ago, in all the cooperatives only one lot of coffee had entered as of yesterday, and that was of only 51 bags, in Ibaiti. The state, which had been the nation's largest producer, has only 450 million trees--100 million less than expected by the IBC--and of these only 350 million are bearing. Leaders from the state's production area, such as Constancio Pereira Dias, president of the Maringa Cooperative, and Anibal Bianchini da Rocha, Melhoramentos Company and the IBC Consultative Board, are quite worried about what might happen to the remainder of the coffee plantations

as a result of the continuing disincentive to the activity, battered by repeated frosts in recent years. These frosts had much to do with the rise in production costs: a crop untouched by frost has a total cost of about 20,000 cruzeiros per bag this year, whereas one affected by frost has a cost of at least 30,000 cruzeiros.

At the end of this week the price of coffee in rural areas varied between 31,000 and 32,000 cruzeiros for Type 6. The IBC auctions held in Sao Paulo are now a significant indicator of price fluctuations: official lots reached an average of 33,340 cruzeiros per bag on 22 June and fell to 31,550 cruzeiros the following day when the rumor circulated that the support price would be less than 40,000 cruzeiros. Friday's closing price was an average of 31,750 cruzeiros, after posting a high a few days previously of 36,400 cruzeiros for Fine coffees from Minas Gerais. The Brazilian Coffee Institute has sold about 5,650,000 bags, making more than 160 billion cruzeiros. Official stocks still have 4 million bags left over and another 3.5 million to 4 million are in private hands.

The big problem, according to Jose Roberto Tavares de Menezes, is that world consumption is not increasing and there is very stiff competition among the producing countries, heavily influenced by the proper functioning of the International Coffee Agreement, which is likely to be renegotiated once more during September. Brazil will export to the member countries this year about 18 million bags and another 1 million to 1.5 million to nonmembers, although to the latter for only \$60 to \$70 a bag, compared with a little more than \$140 (\$170.28 minus special discounts) to the others. The exchange receipts are estimated at about \$2.2 billion, close to what will be obtained from the soybean complex (beans, meal and oil).

Of the \$170.28 minimum price registered in Paranagua, the IBC keeps \$99.50. Oripes Gomes yesterday denied being the source of the information of the IBC president, Octavio Rainho, to the effect that the forfeiture and taxes represent only 37.13 percent of what the coffee is sold for abroad. As a matter of fact, producers and exporters keep only 34.1 percent of what is received from the sale of coffee.

The producers insist, therefore, that the forfeiture be reduced or simply frozen.

8834

CSO: 3342/139

RAINS, DROUGHT FORCE IMPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Jun 83 p 57

[Text] Brasilia--After 4 years of bumper crops, with no worries about supplying essential foodstuffs to the domestic market, Brazil is again in the uncomfortable position of importing basic necessities. Heavy rains in the southern states and the drought in the Northeast resulted in a decline of a little more than 3 million tons in the nation's food production, originally estimated at 56 million tons at the beginning of the year. For the first time during the Figueiredo administration, the government will thus have to authorize purchase abroad of at least 500,000 tons of rice and will not be able to export corn, because the loss in this crop was 900,000 tons.

As a ton of rice is quoted at \$350, Brazil will spend, to avoid a breakdown in the product's supply, \$175 million, money that certainly will be sorely missed at a time of crisis when Brazil is seeking a surplus of \$6 billion in its trade balance. The potential suppliers are Indonesia, Burma and Malaysia.

What makes matters worse in regard to importing rice is the absence of surplus in the international market, as the large producers are also the largest consumers. The decision to import 500,000 tons was made by the coordinator of economic affairs in the Agriculture Ministry, Deniz Ferreira Ribeiro, who warns that this is a limited supply, enough only to meet basic needs.

Offseason

The last 2 months of the rice offseason--January and February--will require the government's special attention. During this period, if the stock in private hands is not sufficient, the Production Financing Commission (CFP) will have to dispose of the supply that stabilizes the domestic market. That means that in September the Agriculture Ministry technicians will have to get busy seeking the best prices and quality. At present the CFP has a stock that will last only 20 days, as the average monthly consumption of rice is 800,000 tons. The agriculture minister is postponing authorization of imports until the carry-over (stock left over from the previous crop) in private hands is known. The expectation is for a harvest of 8 million tons, less than the 9.1 million tons harvested in 1982.

Although the smaller rice harvest in the South and in Maranhao, the chief producing state of the Northeast, is a serious problem, the situation arising from the loss

of 900,000 tons of corn is even more critical. It is one of the most important products in any economy, because in addition to being an excellent food for humans it is the main ingredient of rations and meal for cattle, hogs and poultry. Brazil will be unable to export 600,000 tons of corn this year. Agriculture contributed 47 percent of total exports last year, including grain and other agricultural products, with total revenue of about \$10 billion, of which coffee and soybeans, in that order, were the most important items.

Soybeans also were affected by the rains. In Rio Grande do Sul alone 600,000 tons were lost. Including the losses in the states of Parana and Mato Grosso do Sul, the nation had a decline of 1 million tons in this year's production. The advantage this crop has over the others is that international prices are recovering and receipts of more than the \$2.1 billion of 1982 are expected. The decision of the United States to reduce its grain production by 200 million tons in order to improve prices in international food markets helped reduce the amount of soybeans in the market. Brazil produced 12.8 million tons in last year's crop and was hoping to harvest 15.5 million tons this year. The weather did not cooperate and the total volume for 1983 will be 14.5 million tons.

Less Beans

After a record crop of black beans in 1982, the largest in the nation's agricultural history, with 3 million tons, production this year will fall by 800,000 tons. The producing regions of the South, especially Parana, and the municipality of Irece in Bahia, for different reasons (rain and drought, respectively), were the hardest hit by such losses. Concerned about this situation, the ministers of the economic area, who are studying the new Basic Operating Costs (VBC) and the indices for fixing minimum selling prices, will give priority to products such as rice, beans and corn. Being careful, according to Deniz Ribeiro, "not to favor some products too much, discouraging crops that are essential to the national economy and the consumer."

Besides direct damage, with losses of important crops, the farmer is struggling with another problem: the rains delayed planting of some crops, such as wheat and irrigated beans, for which they otherwise would already have at least begun preparing the soil. The major trump of the sector's authorities, always mentioned by Agriculture Minister Amaury Stabile, is that the VBC, basis for financing crops, will reflect the cost of production, also taking into consideration the higher interest rates determined by the economic "package" announced recently. The minimum price is another matter and will also be financed carefully so as not to discourage the farmer, according to the agriculture minister.

8834

CSO: 3342/139

BRIEFS

PCB OPPOSITION TO CUT--Sao Paulo--The Central Committee of the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) is against the proposal for creating the Sole Central Organization of Workers (CUT) and calling a general strike by the working class. Hercules Correa, a committee member, explained yesterday in an interview in the NOVOS RUMOS publishing office that "in view of the lack of coordination reigning in the labor-union movement, only a policy of alliances with other social sectors can solve problems such as unemployment and labor turnover." In the document entitled "New Directions for the Labor-Union Movement," published in the VOZ DA UNIDADE newspaper, unofficial voice of the PCB, that comes out today, the party cites ideological pluralism as responsible for fragmentation of the labor movement. According to Hercules Correa, "the labor-union movement is run from the top and the meetings don't attract a representative mass of the workers." He considers creation of CUT not feasible for several reasons: there is no mobilization of the working class, the proposal does not unite the labor unions and the CUT would have no legal existence, which would rule out any chance of negotiating with management. "We are opposed to the general strike because it can occur only when there is a social consensus, as in the ABCD strikes in 1977, 1978 and 1979," the communist leader added. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jun 83 p 4] 8834

CSO: 3342/139

EXILE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT INCREASING STRENGTH OF OPPOSITION

Paris LIBERATION in French 16 May 83 p 13

[Interview with Carmen Castillo by Carlos de Sa Rego; date and place not given]

[Text] Exiled in France, Carmen Castillo, the author of "Jours d'octobre a Santiago" [October Days in Santiago], an account of her underground experiences and the death of her comrade, MIR [Mouvement of the Revolutionary Left] leader Miguel Enriguez, answers LIBERATION's questions about the changing situation in Chile.

[Question] The recent demonstrations in Chile seem to prove that Pinochet has lost the support of the middle classes; yet they had benefited amply from his economic policy

[Answer] The Chilean economic "boom" was a reality. A new system of living and consumption, access to foreign goods ... new residential districts, comprised of rather luxurious homes, sprang up like mushrooms. But today the people no longer have any money to buy anything and those districts are deserted, overrun with weeds. Before, those who had an income had access to consumption in a way that made them a part of the pattern even more: even a worker could buy his television set on credit. Credit, credit ...! Today, they are called the "empty wallets." They can't make payments anymore. On the streets of Chile, there are no longer just unemployed people from the working classes, but from the professional classes as well. Very well-dressed beggars carrying small signs: "I am an engineer" The recession hit very hard beginning in 1982: thousands of companies went bankrupt. Even the fascist, Pablo Rodriguez-style populist sectors are demanding that the technocrats responsible for the crisis--the "Chicago boys"--and those who have gotten rich from it, be punished. But Pinochet has not yet decided to change friends.

[Question] What gave the people the courage to go out into the streets?

[Answer] Young people don't have the same political reflexes as before. They have said themselves: "If we don't fight for our dignity, we're no longer anything." Of course, there is fear. But there is also the feeling that there is nothing left to lose. For example, many "residents" cannot stand the institution of "minimum labor," whereby they are hired to build roads that lead nowhere

and which another construction crew is ordered to demolish. All of that for 2-weeks' pay of 500 pesos (50 francs). "It's shameful, we are being treated like dogs," they are saying, even in front of the cameras.

[Question] So it isn't only hunger that has driven them to take action?

[Answer] Hunger and unemployment have existed for a long time. And everyone is aware that things won't get better overnight. Sectoral strikes have taken place, of course, within the limits of the awful labor legislation. But today, all of that is taking on a new dimension, first of all as an act of solidarity. This time, it is the copper miners, traditionally a privileged class, who have called for action. The appeal of the Copper Confederation for 11 May made it possible for all the other sectors to contend that they went out into the streets in protest against a regime and not only for food.

[Question] To hear you talk, Pinochet is totally isolated. Does he still have any support?

[Answer] Employers, who had interests in industry, which provided jobs, are against Pinochet, as are the landowners. But they are afraid of what could take his place. EL MERCURIO's editorial of last Saturday is clear: for the first time, it demanded political liberalization, amnesty for exiles They are afraid that if they don't succeed in convincing Pinochet to make his government more tolerant, the situation could become very difficult for them. The only ones who dare to say "we are with Pinochet" are the small group of financiers and speculators who have profited from the economic model. But Pinochet's real power base is the army.

[Question] The army is still all-powerful in Chile, but there is talk of dissension

[Answer] I don't know There are so many rumors. They even reach as far as Paris. And every time they do, the exiles pick up their telephones. There are certainly some generals who have been called "nationalists," but no one knows who they are. They are military officers who want to prevent the country from being completely sold to the Americans. They reportedly asserted themselves at the "Council of Generals" meeting when Pinochet was planning to sell Easter Island and all the copper mines to the United States. But Pinochet seems to be in good control of his army.

[Question] He has been in power for 10 years

[Answer] He has always been very skillful in controlling the armed forces. People said that he was stupid, that he ruled only by force. That's false: the model which the military implemented was intelligent. It was not only an economic model, but also a social model. They were unable to implement it completely, because they were overtaken by the crisis. I don't like to admit it, but it is true that as long as it was working, many people supported Pinochet.

[Question] Have the opposition political parties played a major role in recent events?

[Answer] The people have found new ways to express their rejection of the present situation. The parties alone are not responsible for such mobilization. The most significant thing has been that the copper sector has called for action and that all expressions of civilian society have followed suit: trade unions, professional associations, committees of the unemployed, etc. The new rationale respects political parties, but it also demonstrates a certain detachment from them. Purely political statements perhaps no longer have the same effect as before. The "superpoliticization" of several years ago is no longer acceptable. The national unity achieved last Thursday is the expression of the unity achieved locally within organizations of civilian society.

[Question] Have leftist militants learned much in the last 10 years?

[Answer] It would seem so. But I must admit that this is a question which we are still asking ourselves. Many people say that when elections are permitted again, we will have the same parties and the same candidates as before. I don't know

[Question] And what about the attack on the Valparaiso Prefecture on Friday evening?

[Answer] This has become a custom in Chile: every time there is an opposition demonstration, a bomb goes off the next day. That enables Pinochet to divert the movement and to justify even stronger repression. On Saturday in Chile, no one was talking about the attack any longer. I am personally convinced that it was a case of provocation, especially since I don't know of anyone, among the left, who could have carried out such an attack. Moreover, that bomb, which reportedly killed an 8-year-old child, also makes it possible to demoralize a large number of young people who demonstrated against the regime and who are seeking new paths of opposition. This was a pointless terrorist act, devoid of any political significance, which made possible the raids of yesterday.

[Question] Are you optimistic?

[Answer] I am carried along by a hope which I never had before, a somewhat insane hope that I can't manage to explain logically. From what I have seen on film, I feel that there is no fear. When I telephoned back to Chile, I was afraid that the horror which rained down on the southern parts of the capital would make people afraid again. But I was told that they would continue to defend those who were arrested on 11 May, that the spirit of 11 May was still alive. Even if things calm down a bit and there may be no immediate response to the repression, I am convinced that the regime has started to decline. And I am sure that I will be able to go back to Chile in early 1985.

11915

CSO: 3319/5

MAPU MARKS 14TH ANNIVERSARY, PARTICIPATES IN 11 MAY PROTEST

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 5 June 83 p 2

[Text] Members of Chile's illegal MAPU [United Popular Action Movement] party did not wait until 19 May to celebrate the 14th anniversary of its founding. Immersed as they are in the intense struggle of the Chilean people against the Pinochet dictatorship, they put this into effect by taking to the streets last 11 May, the day of National Protest called by the unions. In the opinion of Jaime Ramirez, the head of that organization in Latin America, this was indeed the most genuine and telling way to celebrate this important day. Putting that enormous assemblage of Chilean workers against the dictatorship in its proper perspective, Ramirez believes that "we are not yet faced with an imminent collapse of the Pinochet dictatorship. It still has a certain amount of room to maneuver." That is why MAPU is basing its actions on a policy of accumulating strength from a popular base within the framework of unity of the Left.

"We again repeat that we reject any political proposal which is constructed on the foundation of a divided Left, and which does not truly take into consideration the interests of the workers' and people's movement, and in which the popular forces do not play a leading role in the process of democratization," said Ramirez.

The MAPU has been illegal for 10 of its 14 years of existence, and its central concern is to strengthen its organic structure. However, it acknowledges the role of all the revolutionary organizations which operate within the country. In this regard Ramirez notes, "We can confirm errors and weaknesses in the parties, but we do not underrate their role--because of confusion and weakness--as some sectors do. Putting it in perspective, we reaffirm the role as a leader--and in this sense as a vanguard--of a revolutionary party or individual which is strictly based in the movement of society and the faithful expression of it. On the other hand, we do not believe in the spontaneous and simply intuitive action of the social movement in order to achieve the goals that we are setting forth."

Ramirez is straightforward about plans for the future.

"Our strategic objective is the overthrow of the Pinochet dictatorship so as to make room for a democratization which would finally end in taking over power and the re-establishment of a socialist Chile. Our strategic aim is to construct a Popular Revolutionary Bloc through a specific process of struggle, through which a people forms a collective revolutionary consciousness and struggles in an organized way for historic objectives..."

"Our strategy, then, is one of breaking with the regime and of once again taking on the character of an insurrectional process of the masses. Therefore we are taking up every kind of struggle--legal, semi-legal and clandestine, political and military--which has high priority, and which takes concrete form in accordance with the phase of the struggle that we are in and the level of consciousness of the masses themselves. The forms of struggle are not being imposed by decree, but rather are taking concrete form thanks to the creativity, initiative and decision of the popular masses. Therefore we are adopting revolutionary violence as a necessary means to achieve the just goals of the people. So that, generally speaking, the basic elements of our strategy are: the masses--conscious and organized--, weapons in the possession of those masses, and a correct and legitimate political-military leadership, which will demand at least a high degree of unity from the Chilean Left."

Among the basic ideo-political outlines of the MAPU party's demands, the thinking of its founder, Rodrigo Ambrosio, has made an indelible and valued impression. The young organization has kept "cool" in the face of the complexity and intensity of events, and against the background of its 14th anniversary it has reaffirmed its anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, socialist and revolutionary nature.

"We are convinced," said Ramirez, "that the class struggle is the driving engine of history, and that the bourgeoisie and the proletariat are the main classes in conflict under capitalism, and that that class struggle does not express itself in a schematic way, but in socio-political blocs which struggle for hegemony in society, a hegemony which is simultaneously made up of force and consensus. It is in this measure that the structure of popular power, of a people's revolutionary bloc of growing national importance, is the connecting thread of our policy and the foundation of our socialist strategy and projects..." We also understand the real and non-contradictory integration of the Christians into the socialist revolution.

Other very important features of our thinking are the idea of a revolutionary Party siding with and acting as a vanguard of the people, an indispensable condition for their victory; and the idea that our struggle is indivisibly linked with that of all the peoples of the world. We believe in and we practice proletarian internationalism, and we feel united because we feel that we are part of a larger struggle against imperialism and its allies."

OVERPRODUCTION OF COFFEE SEEN AS SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEM

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 June 83 p 16-A

[Article by Jose Ramon Nunez: "Dangerous Coffee Overproduction This Year"]

[Text] FEDECAFE (National Confederation of Coffee Growers) warned yesterday that coffee overproduction this year--something like 2.5 million bags above export and consumption expectations--will constitute a serious economic problem which will not be solved by an illusory frost in Brazil.

The surplus will cost something like 14,000 million pesos which will increase to 22,000 million pesos after we add the cost of financing and storing a product of which we do not know when it will be needed in the world, it was disclosed by FEDECAFE general manager Jorge Cardenas Gutierrez.

That is the most negative and limiting factor as far as the earnings of coffee growers are concerned," said Cardenas, noting that, under current circumstances, for every million bags that are not produced, the grower could at least hope for an increase of at least 1,200 pesos per 125-kilogram load which he must today sell at a maximum official price of 12,100 pesos.

He also warned that overproduction that year will also place the National Coffee Fund in a "rather critical" position since it has to buy the surplus coffee beans and keep them indefinitely.

To finance these stocks, the Fund must reduce the possibilities of increasing the domestic price and this is why there is a threat of a serious accumulation of inventories, the high management official explained.

Do Not Trust Frost

He ruled out the possibility that an unusual phenomenon, such as the materialization of the annual expectations of a big frost in Brazil, might reduce reserves and bring about an immediate recovery of prices, commenting that the world currently has a surplus of 10 million sacks.

The risks of serious damage due to frost in the big plantations in Brazil's South, in the middle of July, are really very minor since there has been an improvement for the past 7 years in the planning of the planting and renewal of the crops so that the production centers have been shifting toward areas with a better climate, Cardenas Gutierrez explained.

"The depressing and depressive effects on prices"--deriving from worldwide over-production--must be taken very much into account by Colombia which, as the second-ranking producer, records a considerable accumulation; this was another one of the opinions he expressed in repeating the need for implementing a serious crop replacement policy.

"We cannot go on wasting money each year since the problem is not to hold on to all that coffee but to figure what it costs us to keep that large volume of coffee which we cannot export," he pointed out.

"The country must thoroughly analyze this matter and be aware that coffee production must be adjusted to the real export and consumption necessities, with some reasonable surpluses," the FEDECAFE manager recommended.

He explained that--even if there were a frost in Brazil now--the effects on prices would be minimal because one must keep in mind that worldwide surpluses are much greater--as they have not been since 1970--and that an increase in the demand can be taken care of immediately.

No Domestic Scare

Cardenas Gutierrez yesterday spoke out during a round-table conference on the problem of the coffee growers, sponsored by the Cundinamarca Committee.

He emphasized that, during the 1982-1983 coffee season's first 8 months, there was no domestic scare in handling coffee policy while, abroad, the country was helped along by the correct functioning of the world price agreement.

"But we already realized that the worldwide supply was above the quantities of coffee which the consumers require, with the resultant decline in prices," he said.

Looking at foreign trade, he said that there is a constant process of watching the quota agreements going on and the situation is not quite clear for everybody regarding the immediate future.

He observed that Brazil demonstrated to the world that it regained its output levels and today returned to 32 million sacks which it recorded until 1975.

That is why overproduction today comes at a difficult moment since consumption has not gone down whereas it has not improved either, while worldwide coffee industry management has become a very complicated operation and it has now become necessary to restore instruments and policies so that the output will be equal to the capacity of the market.

Everything Is Not Saved Yet

In spite of his praise for the implementation of the quota agreement and although he noted that, if there were no such agreement, price levels would be much lower than what they are, he did point out that "The situation has not yet been completely

saved," among other things because consumption is not in keeping with the requirements of the producer countries.

He predicted that the problems would come back in August when the July frost will have hit the Brazilian coffee plantations and when we will see that they managed to get through without any serious damage.

That will be the time for reviewing the situation; although the quota for the 1983-1984 business year has already been negotiated, it will be necessary to analyze demands from countries which are not satisfied with their quota allocations because of the high coffee retention levels.

Speeding Up Devaluation: Jaramillo Ocampo

During the same cycle of lectures promoted by the Cundinamarca Committee, former minister Hernan Jaramillo Ocampo--a member of the so-called Committee of Seven Wise Men--analyzed the coffee problem and in one of his main conclusions called for "greatly speeding up devaluation," to cope with the current economic phenomenon.

He suggested doubling that index, for this year, compared to 1982, which was 19 percent. According to his proposal, devaluation as of December 1983 should come close to 40 percent.

This will make it possible to a great extent to make up for the losses on markets in neighboring countries which devaluated their currencies under the impetus of their foreign debt balance problems and the decline in their trade.

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CSO: 3348/479

BRIEFS

NEW MISSILE LAUNCHERS--The 20 missiles which the army obtained at a cost of 154 million yesterday were used for the main demonstration put on by the Maintenance Battalion in the 20 July District, south of Bogota. These powerful devices are used in warfare against tanks, heavy vehicles, and concrete pillboxes. The launchers fire TOW missiles which have a great range and target accuracy. They are used above all in the armored equipment of any army and they are made in the United States. As military sources revealed to EL TIEMPO and CINEVISION, they were assigned to the Cavalry. The first devices reached the country this year and they were shown to the press for the first time at the Maintenance Battalion. It was also learned that the possibility is being studied for establishing a logistic brigade which would have its headquarters in Mosquera or Madrid, in Cundinamarca. This is where all of the services of the logistic unit would be concentrated, including communications, medical, and weapons. The demonstration was commanded by Lt Col Bernardo Lombo Vanegas, CO, Maintenance Battalion. [Photo caption] The first missile launching tests, using TOW missiles, were conducted yesterday during a demonstration at the Army Maintenance Battalion, in the 20 July District. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Jun 83 p 17-A] 5058

CSO: 3348/479

CASTRO PLAN TO TOUR EUROPE SEEN AT CRUCIAL STAGE

FL081210 Bridgetown CANA in English 1116 GMT 8 Jul 83

[Report by Colin McSeveny]

[Excerpts] Havana, 8 Jul (CANA-REUTER)--Tentative plans for Cuban President Fidel Castro's first visit to Western Europe reached a crucial stage, according to diplomats here.

Although Cuba has not officially acknowledged the proposed visits to socialist-run France, Spain and Sweden, the tour is a major talking point among diplomats in Havana.

Discussions due early next month between Cuban leaders and French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson could go a long way to deciding if Castro will make his first visit to Western Europe since he came to power 24 years ago.

"Any potentially controversial trip has to be planned well in advance and a decision must be reached soon if the visit is to come off within the next 18 months," said a diplomat from one of the countries involved.

But the visit is far from settled. There have been signs that France may not be ready to play host to Castro this year, and this could call the whole trip into question.

Spanish Government sources said in Madrid last week French President Francois Mitterrand had decided he was not in a position to act as host for a visit by Castro this year because he was preoccupied with other business.

They said the tour would not be able to go ahead if one of the three hosts, which had planned it as part of a drive to break the Castro government's isolation, pulled out.

Asked about the report, a spokeswoman for the Elysee Palace in Paris said: "No visit this year by President Castro has been arranged." She declined further comment.

Still regarded as a dangerous revolutionary by some countries, Castro has been shunned by the major Western nations for several reasons, including:

--Strong pressure from the United States, which has tried to throttle its Caribbean neighbour economically through a tight trade blockade.

--Widely-held suspicions that Cuba continues to foment revolution and subversion throughout the world, particularly in Central America.

--The presence of thousands of Cuban troops in Angola and Ethiopia, seen by the West as an example of Cuba acting as a proxy for the Soviet Union.

--Cuba's doctrinaire communist system which prohibits internal opposition.

But diplomats here said there was a growing feeling among some European countries that breaking the isolation of Castro's Cuba would help ease regional and East-West tensions.

Cuban officials insist privately that arms supplies to guerrillas in Central America were halted more than two years ago and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Cuba's chief foreign affairs spokesman, has repeatedly offered to discuss regional problems with Washington.

The diplomats said a visit by Castro to Western Europe in the near future would allow Cuba to emphasize its self-professed moderation and capitalise on differences of opinion over U.S. involvement in Central America.

Liberal and leftist leaders in Europe share the view, also held by Cuba, that the strife in the region springs from long-standing social injustice rather than external subversion.

But the visit could still fall foul of President Mitterrand's reported reservations and of Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez' awareness of the need to reassure dormant rightist forces in Spain that he is a moderate socialist.

The passions that could be provoked in Spain were summed up by conservative leader Manuel Fraga, who warned recently that if Castro came to the Galician region to visit his father's birthplace "he had better arrive in an armoured car."

Spain and France are members of the NATO alliance and could come under pressure from the United States not to invite Castro. But Mitterrand and Gonzalez are also under pressure from leftists in their parties to go ahead.

"I would say that the prospects for the visit taking place within the next year or so are 50-50," one diplomat said.

CSO: 3200/44

CASTRO ADDRESS TO COMMEMORATE CHILDREN'S DAY

FL191800 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2225 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Speech by President Fidel Castro to commemorate Children's Day at a Pioneers and Explorers Center in Havana on 17 July--live]

[Text] Dear friend Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, director of UNESCO, distinguished guests, comrade leaders of the party, state and youth, dear pioneers: It was not long ago that we gathered together near this site to commemorate Children's Day. Today we get together again with some new things.

But besides this beautiful Pioneer Explorer Center we are inaugurating today, we have the honor of having our esteemed friend M'Bow, director of UNESCO, who is visiting us to declare Old Havana a monument, [Castro changes thought] or rather as the heritage of mankind. [applause] He is conducting a tour, not only of Cuba but of other countries, but it is very significant that he wanted to be here with the Cuban children today. This is a great honor for us if we consider the outstanding role that UNESCO has been playing in promoting education and culture throughout the world.

We have received many signs of support from UNESCO and its director. Today we can add the great honor of receiving this commemorative medal of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Simon Bolivar, both because of what Simon Bolivar has meant and means to all Latin American people as well as what UNESCO and its director mean to us. This commemorative medal constitutes a great honor which we accept on behalf of our people and--we should say especially--on behalf of our children. [applause] This honor belongs to our people, the young generation, and the pioneers because they have been called on to carry forward the work of the revolution, of Marti, and of Bolivar. [applause]

I also appreciate very much these titles you comrade pioneers have bestowed on me. This is of the Pioneer Troops, no? The TEREPI [expansion unknown]. And this one? [Castro speaking to the side] This is the explorers? The truth is that I didn't remember. This is the second time I have received a responsibility of this nature. Because when I was a student, a little older than you, more or less in my third year of secondary education, a pioneer movement was organized in the school. Well, it was not a pioneer but an explorer movement. Today we would call it pioneer explorers.

One day, following a series of activities--I believe it was at the end of the year--they appointed me chief of the school's explorers. [applause] I used to love to climb mountains, cross rivers, explore nature, run through the countryside, organize the camp site wherever night would overtake us, eat what we could, and spend several days in the forest. This contact with nature, the mountains, and these experiences came in very handy later because it helped me to think during the guerrilla struggle by making use of the environment as our Mambises had done in the struggle against tyranny. Therefore, the experience I gained as an explorer helped me considerably. I believe the experiences had quite a bit of influence in conceptualizing the tactics of our last national liberation struggle. [applause]

As I have told you on other occasions, perhaps you do not realize the importance of being prepared for any contingency in life, no matter how difficult it may seem. You have just given a very beautiful demonstration of that, regarding the history of our country. From the beginning of the wars for independence, through the Baragua protest, and up to the taking of Moncada Barracks, you pioneers from the armed forces circles of interest gave a magnificent demonstration this afternoon. And this should show you that our wars for liberations, from the very first through the last, were waged in the countryside.

Our people lived in the mountains and the plains, completely at one with nature. During our first war for liberation, they had to live for 10 years doing the same thing that the pioneer explorers do today, sleeping in hammocks; cooking food under very primitive conditions; enduring rain, heat, problems, the war, diseases, and hardships of all kinds.

And as you have expressed a desire to be good patriots, good revolutionary soldiers, to be worthy successors of the current generation, this knowledge you are acquiring will help you to prepare for this. Moreover, it will help you to have greater self confidence to overcome difficulties and problems.

For 25 months our rebel army did the same things you are doing now and lived under the same conditions you are living now at explorer centers. We did however have a disadvantage: although some of us were explorers and peasants, initially we did not have the knowledge you are acquiring at these explorer centers.

To tell you the truth, at the beginning we did not use hammocks. At that time we had not yet managed to satisfy our needs to get some rest. We thought we could sleep on the ground. Well, we were ready to sleep on the ground. During the first weeks, the first months, we did sleep on the ground. As we were on the mountains, we sometimes lay down at foothills and woke up 2 or 3 meters downhill. Without realizing it, we had slid down in our sleep.

Then we rediscovered the use of hammocks, which represented a remarkable improvement. Just imagine that on a rainy day, under a heavy rain, we virtually had to sleep on the mud.

Our next great discovery was plastic material [nylon]. Thus, we found the way to carry a "roof" in our knapsacks. When we already had hammocks and plastic material, we were able to hang our hammocks, cover ourselves with the plastic material and spend as long as 3 days in the rain.

Of course, sometimes the water ran through the rope and we got wet. Then we applied a device to solve this problem: we tied knots on each side of the rope to divert the water. Perhaps you already know this but in case you still don't know I am telling you.

If you are camping in the forest on a rainy day, water will slip into your hammock through the rope even if you have plastic material. You will then have to solve this problem.

We also had to work hard to obtain food. We were able to eat when we were close to a house where we could find pots and food. At first we did not carry our food. If we did not find a house, then we could not eat. Then we made another discovery: to carry a pot, some food ingredients, salt, a little grease--if we could find it--rice and beans.

Sometimes we marched all day and at nightfall we set up our camp and prepared our food. We no longer needed any house to cook. We started to carry our own food and prepared it ourselves. This gave us great freedom of movement; it allowed us to travel long distances without having to stop in any house, without being spotted.

Basic things such as hammocks, plastic material, food in our knapsacks, some cooking implements--either a pot or a bucket--and our cooking by squads signified major improvements for us in our war of liberation.

You already know how to do all these and many other things. None of us knew then what you know now. We, of course, did not have camping tents. But what you can do now, blindfolded, jumping out of your hammocks, putting on your shoes, rolling up your hammocks and tying them up in a few minutes, this we could not do then because no one had ever taught us how and because we had never had the chance to learn. I am astonished at what you can do during your camping exercises: how you cook, prepare the ground and even build a little kitchen with a chimney.

Our main problem was precisely the fact that we could not cook during the day because we had planes overflying the area all the time which could spot us due to the smoke.

Watching you boil potatoes and other things in a makeshift kitchen causing virtually no smoke, I said to myself: what great guerrilla fighters these young pioneers could make given all their knowledge and experience. This is really extraordinary.

I was also very satisfied to hear that more than 600,000 pioneers have joined the movement of explorers. [applause]

A few years ago we did not have these activities. We could say that in the early years of the revolution all our attention was focused on the construction of schools, first in the literacy campaign which was carried out with the participation of our students. Then came the construction of schools, the training of teachers, the overall educational training of our pioneers but we still did not have explorers centers for pioneers. We did not have a single pioneers palace, camping or explorers centers.

A few years ago when we met, if I am not mistaken at the Lenin park or near it, many of these things did not exist. There was perhaps a pioneers palace. It is remarkable to see how much progress we have made in recent years.

Our comrades of the party, mass organizations and the people's government have responded to our call to bolster the construction of explorers camps, centers and pioneers palaces. As a result of these efforts, today we have a large number of facilities for pioneers.

Do you know how many explorers centers we have? Don't you know? Where is little Maceo? The one involved in the Baragua protest. You...don't you know now many explorers centers we have? Doesn't anyone know? Ah...there you are, you are the one who impersonated Maceo. Yet you don't know how many explorers centers we have, right? Let's see, how many? How many did you say? No...no, 98? Ah...61 including this one? Well, we already have 60 explorers centers. What do you think? I believe we did not have any 3 years ago; now we have 60.

Do you know how many children can go to these facilities at the same time, including their adult chaperons? Do you know how many explorers can go in one single day? Nearly 14,000 pioneers can go these facilities on the same day nationwide. Do you know how many explorers can go to these camps every year? More than 500,000 explorers. Do you think this is a lot? Do you know how many people have been to our explorers centers from September to this date? You don't know...239,355 pioneers and adults. This is quite a large number, isn't it? The construction of nine other centers is now under way.

Thus we will have 15,000, I mean 69 explorers centers which can accommodate more than 15,000 pioneers-explorers.

As I said earlier, more than 600,000 pioneers have joined the movement of explorers. We now have this center which is the 61st. You have seen it, right? Have you visited this center, have you seen it? What do you think about it? Is it nice?
[Children shout: Yes]

It is beautiful, you say, but you seem to think that it is not too beautiful [Children shout: Yes]. I believe the builders and the project designer overdid it. Yes. This looks like a tourist center. It is extremely nice. I believe this explorers center is extremely comfortable. It has a tile roof, terrific kitchens. What? It looks like a hotel. [laughter] Then if it looks like a hotel or a motel, it does not look like an explorers center.

I want to tell you what happened. As this explorers center is located near the Lenin school, in the vicinity of the Lenin park, in the outskirts of the botanical garden. This is a well developed area with many new buildings, thus the project designers decided to build something which would match the other buildings of this area of the city. Thus, instead of putting a thatched roof they put a tile roof on this building.

It is no doubt very nice. But it seems to me that buildings at explorers camping centers should have thatched roofs. Granted, granted that this has turned out so sophisticated, as it is said, so nice, so beautiful but let it be the only one

with this type of architecture. No, no. Look we are not building hotels for tourists, but let it be the only one as a special concession to the type of architecture prevailing in this zone. Yet thatched, not tile, roofs are the ones which truly reflect the lives of our mambises, our rebels, our country life. We will leave this one the way it is because it is already built. There is nothing we can do about it. Yet I want to recommend the movement of explorers and our youth comrades that explorers centers should have thatched roof buildings. We can have this as a beautiful building but still use it.

The area chosen for this building is also no doubt wonderful. There are many trees on the creek which surrounds the area at which this explorers center was built. Its proximity to the botanical garden gives special significance to this explorers center. We will not use it immediately. We will start using it in approximately 2 months because we are studying how well can those beams resist the added weight put on them.

A high-level committee of experts has already given assurances that the center is safe. Yet to make it even safer, the committee recommended a number of measures to strengthen the structures. It is also necessary to work on the lawn since, through a great effort, this explorers center was completed in a few weeks. Thus, we can still see traces of the construction work, car tracks, and removed soil. This center will not be fully completed until its lawn is also completed and until the reinforcement recommended by the high level committee is completed. Had we put a thatched roof on it, we wouldn't have these problems. But now it is our responsibility to make these facilities 100 percent safe, by making whatever reinforcements might be necessary to make it absolutely, fully safe.

Yet, there is no doubt that this camp is a marvel now that it is completed and, despite my protests, it is very pretty, very sophisticated for a pioneers-explorers center. Let it be recorded that we do not want other cities to build a camp like this. This one is going to be the most beautiful in Cuba, as far as buildings are concerned. It also has a beautiful vegetation, almost unsurpassable. But, in my judgment, this is not the type of ideal center for pioneers-explorers.

I hope you understand what I am saying. [Audience shouts: Yes.] Do you understand? [Audience shouts: Yes.] Besides it is more expensive. With what it costs to build an explorers center of this type, we could probably build five centers. Is it not better that way? [Audience shouts: Yes.] Alright.

With reference to the pioneers camps, do you know how many camps we have? Do you not know? You do not know anything. [laughter] Do you know there is one; which one? What did you say is the name of the camp? [Audience shouts something unintelligible] Tarara. Jose Marti. That is good. Sometimes the same thing happens to me, I say Tarara, then I correct myself and say Jose Marti. If it happens to me, that can be explained, but to you? You were almost born in that pioneer's camp. That is the Jose Marti camp.

You know that it is the biggest in the country. Who has not been at the Jose Marti camp? Let those who have been at the Jose Marti camp raise their hands. All of you have been there. Let those who have been there more than once raise their hand. I am not going to continue asking because everybody will be raising their hands continuously.

That camp is used during school vacations, and also during school terms. During school vacations, it is used for 1-week periods. During school terms, it is used for 15-day periods. This summer, according to statistics provided by the daily JUVENTUD REBELDE--and I read it a lot, sometime they make me make mistakes... [leaves thought unfinished] I read in the report on this explorers center that it had 3 square kilometers. I was surprised and immediately called Comrade (Landi); later on, JUVENTUD REBELDE was contacted to find out the size of this center.

I estimate that 3 square kilometers is bigger than 20 caballerias. The explorers center has swallowed the botanical garden, how can that be possible? The botanical garden gave up part of its land for the center, one of the more beautiful sections, at least where there is more vegetation. The botanical garden is very big, it has more than 50 caballerias.

But I said: 20 [caballerias], they must be crazy. I had not yet visited the explorers center. Later on, they said the size was 6 hectares. Finally, I learn the true figure. It was not like JUVENTUD REBELDE said. The size is 2 caballerias. The value of 2 caballerias here is very high. Two caballerias is a good size. The botanical garden still has 42 caballerias.

I hope you will not take any more land away from the botanical garden. As I said, according to the statistics provided by JUVENTUD REBELDE, 100,000 pioneers will visit the Jose Marti camp during the summer vacation. We already have 22 pioneer camps. In the term that just concluded, almost 300,000 pioneers visited these camps. A new camp is under construction in Holguin Province, and the one in Santiago de Cuba is being expanded. For the next school term, we will have 23 camps, which will make it possible for more than 465,000 pioneers to visit the camps annually.

We now have two things. I hope you will not forget the statistics I am mentioning here, so that when someone asks you how many camps the pioneers have and how many explorers centers, you will be able to answer correctly. Now palaces of pioneers... you were wrong. There are 60 explorers centers and 61 pioneers' palaces. There are 61 pioneers' palaces with a weekly registration of 124,917 pioneers. There are 19 more palaces under construction. Thus, for the next school term we will have some 80 pioneers' palaces with a weekly registration of nearly 150,000 pioneers.

Some 68 municipalities in the country already have a pioneers' palace. In recent years we have grown considerably in pioneers' palaces explorers centers, pioneer camps, and in addition to that, what else do we have? What other pioneer institution do we have? You do not know. What is that? That is correct, it is the pioneer small camps. We have 52 pioneer small camps in cooperatives, and 24 more are under construction.

A pioneer small camp will be inaugurated today in Matanzas Province at an agricultural enterprise, that is the Lenin enterprise in Jovellanos. We have in total 248 pioneer installations of all types with a capacity for 1.2 million pioneers.

This way we can guarantee that 80 percent of the pioneers from third grade on will be able to visit these installations annually. That is, the revolution has already

built pioneer installations for the benefit of 80 percent of the country's pioneers. We will continue to work. We will continue to build pioneer camps, explorers centers, pioneers' palaces, pioneer small camps, and so forth until 100 percent of the pioneers are able to participate in these activities.

This, of course, is not the only thing that the revolution has done for the children, for the pioneers. As our small comrade Edith explained, many schools and hospitals have been built for the children. That was the first thing that was done. We also feel satisfied that on the 30th Moncada anniversary commemoration and the upcoming commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the revolution's triumph, we are able to say that all the children in our country have schools, 100 percent of all the children in the country. Not only do they have primary schools, but also have secondary, preuniversity, polytechnic, and technological schools.

In addition, our educational system guarantees to outstanding students the possibility of attending centers of higher education in any of the branches.

In other words we have established an educational system which guarantees unlimited possibilities for all children and adolescents, for all our youth. We have to continue to work on that educational system. We still do not have a good system. It is not good.

For example, not all our primary schools have all-day sessions [doble sesion]. We must have all-day sessions in primary schools. Do you agree? [Children shout yes] Good! How many of you had all-day sessions in primary school? Raise your hands. Only those who had all-day sessions. Good. Now, raise your hands if you did not have or do not have all-day sessions in primary school. Of course, there are not many. But you are pioneers from Havana City [Province] which I believe has 80 percent [in all-day session]. [Shouting from the children] What percentage is it? Ninety percent of the primary school pupils in Havana City [Province] are already attending all-day sessions. Urban pre-university students do not have all-day sessions. Another thing concerns the secondary schools in the countryside and pre-university schools in the countryside. Now, how many of you are in secondary schools? Raise your hands. You are from urban secondary schools, correct? All of you. How many of you have all-day sessions? None of you. Good. And what do you think of that? What do you do when you have no afternoon classes? In the city of Havana? What do you do? [Children shout] You study? All of you study when you do not have all-day sessions? [Children shout] No, but we are speaking seriously. [laughter] You participate in sports too? Of course, and what else? And you stroll through the city too, correct? [Children shout] Quite a bit. What do you think about all-day sessions? [Children shout] No, we include sports and organized activities. Would all-day sessions be better in secondary schools? [Children shout] You would learn more. And wouldn't your parents be more pleased and be less concerned if they know you are in school? [Children shout Yes] Of course.

We are talking about the future. We cannot do it at this time because we do not have enough school buildings. But we are planning for the future. Since we cannot build schools in the countryside for all middle-level students, let us have all-day sessions for urban secondary and pre-university schools. We will not achieve this for years but it is our goal. That is why I say that our educational

system still requires additional efforts to improve it. Do you know what you want to study: [Children shout Yes] Because I want to ask a question. How many of you are going to become teachers? Raise your hands. [Children shout] There are some, a sufficient number of you. You will not? And you, what are you going to study? You. You are going to be a lawyer? Good. Are you going to be a judge, prosecutor, or what. Lawyer.

And for example, who is going to take engineering? [Children shout] Oh, that is very good news, very good news indeed. Now, I hope you know that you will have to study hard. You have to study hard because you may only begin university studies based on your record, according to your school grades. Now, raise your hands if you are going to study medicine. Well, we have a good number of you. Very good. But I hope you know you will have to study hard if you are hoping to become part of the medical sciences detachment because they are also selected on the basis of their grades, conduct, and so forth.

Are you certain that whatever you want to study you can study? [Children shout yes] Why? [Children shout] Now, do all children and youth of Latin America have the same opportunity you have? [Children shout no] Unfortunately no, unfortunately there is still too much illiteracy, many children without schools, without hospitals, and so forth. The revolution has also concerned itself with your health. I believe that you are also concerned, correct? [Children shout yes] And I hope that you are cooperating with all the programs to protect your health.

We have built many pediatric hospitals. We are going to build more hospitals and polyclinics. We have built intensive care rooms in all pediatric hospitals of the country. We have substantially reduced infant mortality. We have eradicated many diseases which had affected our children. The first of these diseases was polio, a disease which had really been a scourge for our homeland. These conditions do not exist in all of Latin America. There are many children who lack polyclinics, doctors, or hospital care.

It is also very satisfying that, as we approach the 30th anniversary, we can say that the health of our country's children is guaranteed. There are also other institutions which we have been developing for the enjoyment of our population, particularly the children.

Lenin Park is nearby. I am sure there are many of you here who have visited Lenin Park. Raise your hand if you have visited Lenin Park. All of you. Now, raise your hand if you have visited the zoo. All of you. But which zoo, the old or the new one? [Children shout] No, you have not seen the new one. [Children shout] No, which one is that? That is the old one. That is the old one, rejuvenated if you will, but still the old one. [Children shout] You have been to the new one? When? [Child answers] Oh yes, you are from that group that was over there [words indistinct]. I remember now. You and your little group went, but the rest of you, when I spoke to you earlier did not know that a new zoo was being built. That zoo has been under construction for many years, slowly. It has many lions, elephants and [Castro interrupted]. What? Tigers? It has a bunch of tigers. It has all the animals. It is missing some giraffes but they are coming.

Now, we have been building that zoo for many years. It is not finished yet, I give you fair warning. Did you like it? You like it, correct? In that zoo the animals run loose. Yes, loose, but don't be afraid. The animals do run loose. The tigers, lions, and all the animals run loose. Each of the animals is in his area, but running loose. Of course. Do you want to hear some information about the zoo? [Children shout yes] Well, I have some information here because I thought you might be interested to know that the zoo will open this year. But it is not finished yet. However, the animals have been there for a long time and we are not going to wait until it is completely finished, because it has been a long time. Those lions eat a lot of horse meat and eat a lot of food, so we have to get some use out of them.

Well, regarding the zoological park, I can tell you that we have many works completed. And in the area called the reproduction zone we have over 900 animals. We have acquired most of these animals through trades with other zoos. Still other animals were born in the park. The zoo has camels, zebras, rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses, antelopes, tigers, hyenas, and so forth. We are going to acquire a few more this year, the giraffes among them.

Now listen to this. As a fundamental principle, the National Zoological Park exhibits the animals in conditions similar to the one they have in their natural habitat, without any type of construction, or visible artificial restraints, and they can be seen roaming freely. That is why the construction of this type of facility is not easy. Each animal species has special requirements that must be taken into consideration.

This year the maintenance and service area will be inaugurated. This area will provide support to everything that is being built. The breeding area, where all the animals we have are being kept--all well acclimatized--will be completed this year. The African prairie, where in an area of 6 caballerias some 150 African animals, such as elephants, giraffes, zebras, rhinoceroses, antelopes, buffalo, ostrich and so forth, will live, will be inaugurated this year.

All these animals will be seen from buses which will travel around the park. In each of those buses there will be a guide who will explain what is being seen. It will not be necessary to walk. There will be buses specially built for that purpose.

The lion exhibit is an old quarry where from 40 to 50 lions will live free to roam as they please. This exhibit will have a tunnel through which special buses will travel around these majestic and ferocious animals. At the top of the wall, there will be a large mirador looking toward the exhibit. Those who do not want to take the bus ride, can use the mirador. This is nothing new. In Africa, we visited a similar zoo in Tanzania. All the animals are roaming around freely in that zoo.

In our zoo the lions are not going to be together with the antelopes or zebras, but in that park in Tanzania they are. Over there, a natural balance exists. Once in a while the lions eat an antelope or a zebra, but the number of antelopes and zebras being born every year is such that they are replaced. They live in a state of balance as nature meant it to be.

Now in our zoo, the lions will be roaming freely, but not with the other animals. If they begin eating zebras and antelopes, we will have no zebras and no antelopes. They will be free, let us say together but not that close. The lions will have their area, which is an old quarry. It is very interesting. I have not been briefed very clearly as to what would happen if the bus stops among the lions. If the engine stops, what would happen? Of if the bus has a flat tire? All of that could happen. I imagine all this has been taken into consideration. They probably have a lion tamer to take care of the animals. Or, they probably have a crane or a truck, I imagine they have taken into consideration all safety precautions to visit the lions in a bus, and without the lions getting into the buses.

But, are you afraid? [Some audience response] You are? How can a pioneer explorer be afraid of a lion? That cannot be possible. When you are taken there, you know that all safety precautions have been taken. You will be safe. Are you going to see the lions in buses? [Audience shouts: Yes] That is good. [A pioneer is vaguely heard saying something to Fidel] The bus was reinforced, was it not? Ah, the crane truck piked it up. This is a pioneer that has already visited the new zoo. He is reporting on his visit. [The pioneer continues to talk] Then, there is no problem. Your advice is that they do not have to be afraid to visit the zoo.

Well, I am going to read something else. Two special exhibits for some zebras and antelopes will be inaugurated. These animals cannot be set free in the African prairie section to avoid problems. There will be a children's recreation area, where the children will enjoy special toys and games which will contribute to their physical and mental development, and a theater for marionettes, puppets, clowns and so forth.

The children's zoo--an area for domestic animals where the mothers and their children can pet them and another for tame wild animals which have been cared for by humans--here the pioneers will be able to come in contact with the animals in accordance with the technicians' instructions. These are tame domestic animals. We hope to have an elephant no bigger than 40 inches in this area. This will be a dwarf elephant, do you not believe that? There will be small zebras, antelopes, llamas, buffalo, lions, tigers, chimpanzees, all new born and raised by humans in the breeding area of the zoo itself. I do not know if one can pet one of those tigers, but I have been told that they will be new born and raised by humans in the breeding area.

There will be a lake for birds and so forth. It will be a great zoo. We hope that by year's end you will be able to visit it. Here we have the botanical garden. I am sure you did not know that the botanical garden had given 2 caballerias of land to the explorers center. Did you know that? Well, whenever you see the director of the botanical garden, please thank her. Do you want some information on the botanical garden? Are you interested in it? [Audience shouts: Yes]

Well, this botanical garden is 600 hectares in size, divided into 19 areas, which respond to various ecological, systematic, and economic schemes. Its development began in 1968 and its principal objectives are educational, recreational, and scientific, which is why it will provide services to students of all educational systems, including you, specialists, and the people in general.

The garden has 35 kms of paths which provide access to all its areas. There are large quantities of trees. There are trees from Cuba, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and even from Australia. It has a collection of palm trees of 140 varieties, collections of fruit trees, and other productive plants. It has more than 500 varieties of orchids, 1,037 varieties of cacti, and 600 other species of shade plants.

That garden will not be inaugurated yet, but will be ready for visitors beginning the end of the year. It is very important, aside from its beauty. One must be patient to build one of these gardens. The plant has to be planted and then wait many years. But tens of scientists and hundreds of workers have been struggling for the past 15 years to create this botanical garden, located near the explorers center. By year's end, the pioneers will be able to visit this botanical garden.

This is the news I can give you. Is it good? [Audience shouts: Yes] What do you like best? Do you like the all-day session in the urban schools? [Laughter] That is in the future. It will take some time. You like the zoo best. Why? [Some shouts are heard] What about the botanical garden? Are you going to visit it? Do you not like the plants? [Audience shouts: Yes] You will also visit the botanical garden. That is correct. Have you visited the aquarium? Those who have visited the aquarium raise their hands? That is good. It is the Miramar aquarium.

In a more distant future we will also have a new aquarium. But since this will take both time and resources, we will have to build it slowly. Yet the blueprint for this new aquarium is already being drawn. I know you children like aquariums very much. We are going to improve the one we have now but the blueprint for a new aquarium is also being drawn. Thus, we will have a zoo, the botanical garden, aquariums, Lenin Park, explorers centers, and pioneer palaces. Although we have a circus, I do not think it is among the best in the world. I believe our zoo will be among the best in the world; our botanical garden will also be among the best in the world.

Our future aquarium will also be among the best in the world, the design is very nice. Our circus is still not among the best in the world. We should seek to improve our circus so that we may some day say that we have a circus which may at least look like the Soviet circus. You have seen the Soviet circus, right? It is very nice. Those who have seen the Soviet circus, raise your hands. But when do you study? [laughter] I can see you have not missed anything here in Havana.

Well, all these things have been developed and built since the advent of the revolution. Our children are also learning to love their fatherland. The revolution has given us many things. All these are precisely achievements of the revolution. Yet we must defend the revolution. [Castro makes a pause] That was a plane but it did not come here to participate in any exercise.

As you know, the revolution has enemies. Who is the main enemy of the revolution? [Children shout: the Yankees]. The Yankees, Yankee imperialism. This is why you pioneers should also go to the training centers of the armed forces; you

should be interested in weapons, in military training; many pioneers should prepare to join the armed forces in the future, as a soldier of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, as part of our people. As you know, not only our soldiers but our entire people must defend our fatherland and our revolution. Both reservists and hundreds of thousands members of territorial militia forces are ready to defend our revolution.

In the future, those of you who are today attending explorers centers should also participate in the militia forces, in defending the fatherland. Some of you should go to military schools. Boys and girls alike should prepare for defense. As you know, many women have joined territorial militia forces because the revolution must be defended by our entire people, regardless of their age; youths, senior citizens and children alike.

I am certain, I am certain, I am completely certain that if the enemy dare attack our country it will have to fight even our children [applause]. Sooner or later, those young pioneers who have been attending military training centers--despite their being only 12, 14 or 15 years old--will find that they can even drive tanks, that they can handle sophisticated weapons, and that they can shoot well.

A child can do many things. He can be a messenger. We had very young boys who were messengers, or they would let us know as soon as they sighted the enemy. They were explorers. They would bring news to the rebel troops. Lastly, if a child is very small and cannot use a weapon or do any kind of defense task, he has one more function left to him. He should grow so that someday he may become a fatherland's soldier. The same thing that the mother of the Maceos told her smallest child: Stand up straight! Stand up straight, so that you may fight for your fatherland. [applause]

It is very important that our pioneers be educated in that patriotic feeling. We do not want the war. We do not wish to see our fatherland attacked, never. We do not wish to have such tough, difficult circumstances facing our fatherland. But, before giving up our principles, before giving up our independence, before giving up the revolution, we would much rather be dead. That is what our children and pioneers say. [applause]

That is why our pioneers are educated in revolutionary ideas. That is why they exercise, do sports, and train for the future. But let no one believe that just because they are 9, 10, 12 years of age, they would not be capable of doing something for their fatherland. Of course, your first duty at your age is to study. That is your first duty, to study, also to take care of your health, practice sports; in addition, to study, discipline, education. This we call a formal education is very important. You must respect your teachers. You must respect your parents, your elders.

You should receive a good education in the family circle and in school. You must have the habit of following good examples, not the bad ones. There are ways to fight against bad examples. One way is to criticize them, and another not to imitate them. Unfortunately, there are adults who have no education. It is true that the main source of education should be the home. That is the truth. But, unfortunately, our previous generation did not receive the education you have

received. In general, the families have good education, and generally the families care for their children, above all, the revolutionary families. Since the majority of the families are revolutionary, we know they care for their children.

But, there are always exceptions to the rule. Unfortunately, there are broken homes with problems, and those problems affect the children in many instances. Those problems also affect the youngsters, the youths. Unfortunately, there are adults who do not have a good education. There are persons who do not respect their elders, parents. There are youths and youngsters who do not respect their teachers.

That is why your duty is to study, to be disciplined, to get an education, to respect your parents, to respect your teachers, to respect your elders. Those who set bad examples should be criticized. The best ones should be imitated. In other words, children of your age have to observe those fundamental obligations, but you also have to prepare yourselves from a very young age to be good revolutionaries, good patriots, good combatants.

We have no doubt that each generation is better than the previous one, and that each generation will be better than the previous one. I have no doubt that the present generation of youths is better than our generation. But I am sure, and we have great hopes, that the generation of which you are part will be even better than our present generation of youths. And the generation that comes after you will still be better than you.

You say, according to the pioneer that spoke here, that you are grateful to the revolution, that you are grateful to those who gave their lives for the revolution. Well, I can say the following. The revolution is the people. The revolution belongs to the people. The revolution is you yourselves. What the pioneers are doing when they study, when they work, when they participate in sports, when they are disciplined, when they are well educated, when they are respectful, that is the revolution. [applause]

The revolution was not carried out by a single generation. The revolution was started by the generation of Cespedes, Agramonte, Maceo, Gomez, Marti, Mella, Villena, Guiteras. Our generation continued it at the Moncada, Sierra Maestra, in the struggle against imperialist aggressions. It is being moved forward by our present generation of youths, and you will have to continue it, this generation represented by our pioneers. [applause]

That is why on a day like today, 17 July, on the eve of a few days before we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada, I can say in the name of the combatants of our generation, that we are sure that you will be worthy standardbearers of the revolution, and that when you are in school, when you are studying, when you are working, when you are at the Explorers centers, when you are at the camps, when you are participating in recreational or training activities, or any other activities, you will do your best, and will do it especially in memory of, in recognition of, and in gratitude of that numerous contingent of youths who, on 26 July 1953, 30 years ago, gave their lives for you. Fatherland or death, we shall win! [Prolonged applause]

CSO: 3248/1072

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS ON NICARAGUAN ACHIEVEMENTS

PA170350 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Report by special correspondent Nestor Nunez; no time or date given--live or recorded]

[Text] The clumsy lies spread by the imperialist news media concerning alleged excesses by the Sandinist officials with the prisoners for counterrevolutionary crimes were proved false before correspondents accredited to this capital, during a visit to a farm for the rehabilitation of former Somozist guards, located near Managua.

Forty-two former agents, with jail sentences of up to 30 years, live in this installation, periodically receive passes to visit their families, and receive payment for the work they carry out. The prisoners range from former members of the National Guard intelligence corps to the former governor of Rivas Department, and are watched only by two completely unarmed Sandinist escorts.

Further on, on the road that borders Managua Lake, we find a farm for Miskito Indians who were charged with counterrevolutionary activities. The Sandinist revolution is progressively changing this center into a settlement with all the necessary commodities, thus ensuring them a signified life. A Miskito leader from the farm told the news media that the truth of the revolution has erased misgivings and confusion among those who, influenced by enemy propaganda, were capable of attacking their own country.

Another visit that caused great interest among the correspondents accredited in Managua was a tour through the modern Tipitapa-Malacatoya agro-industrial complex which is being built, with Cuban assistance, near Managua. The new complex, with an investment cost of \$212 million, will raise sugar production in Nicaragua by almost 50 percent. It is scheduled to start operation next year.

The construction process also guarantees the training of Nicaraguan workers and technicians, who learn from Cuban specialists everything concerning the construction of sugar mills.

Engineer Denis Quezada, deputy director of industrial development of the Nicaraguan Agrarian Development Ministry, said that Tipitapa-Malacatoya is a new example of

internationalism that strengthens even more the indestructible Cuban-Nicaraguan friendship.

Meanwhile, the local news media publishes large headlines concerning the announcement made yesterday by Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega concerning the analysis of a bill for patriotic military service, which will allow the organized participation of all citizens in defense of the homeland.

The newspapers also report preparation for the central event to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the Sandinist Revolution's victory. As reported, this will take place in Leon, northwest of the capital, on 19 July.

CSO: 3248/1072

BISHOP ADDRESSES AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

FL302358 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 30 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has said the People's Revolutionary Government sees the working class as the first in any society because they are hard-working and in the forefront of production. He made the statement while addressing agricultural workers at the Boccage (?Diamond) State Farm in St Marks today, following a tour which he and Agricultural Minister George Louison made of the estate.

The prime minister said the country can have the most sophisticated form of technology but without the working class to utilize that technology the country would be at a standstill.

Prime Minister Bishop urged the workers to grow more food and to eat what they grow. He also went on to say that agriculture needs to grow with modern-day technology if it was to survive in this competitive world. On this note, he told the workers that they must raise their educational levels and step up on the (?skill) training in order to participate in [words indistinct] programs.

President of the Agricultural and General Workers Union, [name indistinct], and manager of the estate, (Roy Charles), were also present. Manager (Charles) said one of the main problems facing the estate is that of predial larceny and he urged the workers to help stamp out that practice which results in the loss of about 600 pounds of produce weekly.

The agricultural workers raised a number of issues with the prime minister and the minister of agriculture.

CSO: 3298/1288

BRIEFS

IMF CREDIT--Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 6 (REUTER)--Grenada is seeking a three-year credit from the International Monetary Fund extended fund facility for balance of payments support, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop told REUTERS. He said Grenada has asked for about five mln dlrs to help offset a deficit in the external accounts of about 40 mln dlrs last year. Bishop said Grenada's attempts so far to negotiate an IMF credit have been frustrated by U.S. opposition. Last year it sought a compensatory financing loan and subsequently rejected an IMF proposal for a standby credit instead, he added. [Text]
[FL062045 Bridgetown CANA in English 1937 GMT 6 Jul 83]

CSO: 3298/1288

AGRICULTURE MINISTER SPEAKS ON GRAIN SITUATION

Nicaraguan Exports Cease

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Jun 83 p 12

[Text] There will be no more exports of staple grains to Nicaragua, the government of that country has declared; as for ourselves this allows us to stabilize our own situation by avoiding the possibility of importing as a result of the losses caused by the drought in purely agricultural regions, Minister of Agriculture Leopoldo Sandoval said yesterday.

Reports have been released already with statistics on the losses suffered in the highlands where the last drought especially affected the corn, bean and rice crops.

We hope that with the stabilization of the rains the fields of Guatemala can produce a sufficient quantity not only of staple grains, but a large amount of diverse agricultural products.

This will permit avoiding an increase in prices of vegetables, corn, beans and rice, etc., on account of a possible scarcity of the aforementioned.

In sum, we believe that with everyone working together on this problem we can overcome it.

Therefore the decentralization of many organizations within the ministry has been decided upon so that its offices and all of its efforts in the field can be put in a position to help deal with the crisis left as a consequence of the last drought.

Apart from this, the personnel not in the countryside but in the decentralized offices will go to work in the new Registrar of Citizens to receive sufficient training to be of use to the same public administration.

No Shortage Predicted

Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 22 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] At noon today, Minister of Agriculture Leopoldo Sandoval stated that there will be no shortage of staple grains and that the damage left by the past drought are not alarming.

Up to now, the rains of the wet season have not caused damage, or at least there are no reports of that kind; it is assumed that if the rainy season is normal this year, there will be a large enough harvest of popular foodstuff products.

The spokesman was asked if the sale of these products to Nicaragua will continue and reported that that Central American nation no longer insisted on the purchase after acquiring 10,000 tons of corn at a price of 2 million quetzals.

The corn and beans in the silos of INDECA [National Institute of Agricultural Marketing] will be kept as a reserve in the possible event of national distribution.

These reserves of staple grains have made it possible to maintain price controls for the benefit of consumers.

There are 450,000 quintals of corn and 220,000 quintals of beans stored.

Referring to the decentralization of the Ministry of Agriculture, Sandoval stated that it is proceeding in this manner with instructions from the president of the republic and said action will begin on 1 July. He added that all personnel of the Public Agriculture Sector in Guatemala without specific tasks must work in the field to lend a hand and give advice to the farmers.

9989

CSO: 3248/984

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

FL041809 Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Jun 83 p 7

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sunday (CANA)--Foreign exchange starved Guyana has told all foreign companies operating here which require fuel locally that they will have to pay for it in U.S. currency from next month.

The Guyana National Energy Authority (GNEA) said the move was part of a plan to ensure a "more effective programme of energy management and currency control."

It comes into effect on July 1, and will affect "all foreign registered fishing organisations, airlines excepting BWIA and other foreign companies operating in Guyana," the GNEA said.

The authority said it has also "implemented a number of procedures aimed at streamlining the distribution of petroleum fuel."

The procedures make it mandatory for all oil companies operating in Guyana to continue to provide the GNEA with monthly information on fuel purchased.

Purchasers of 1,500 gallons or more per month of any type of fuel should continue to submit information of their purchases to the authority.

The GNEA said fuel stations which sell directly into the fuel tanks of vehicles must also submit information to the GNEA.

The latest move is seen here as part of attempts by the government to cut down on fuel imports.

In 1981, Guyana spent G\$431 million on purchasing fuel and lubricants, and G\$325 million last year.

CSO: 3298/1287

UNION CHARGES GUYMINE WITH WITHHOLDING FOOD

FL041730 Bridgetown CANA in English 1542 GMT 4 Jul 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 4 (CANA)--The leading trade union organising a more than three-week-old strike in Guyana's vital bauxite industry says a senior government official has been obstructing it from buying food items at the Linden mining town.

But an official of the state-run Guyana Mining Enterprise (GUYMINE) said the union's allegations were "false and malicious."

Executive member of the Guyana Mine Workers Union (GMWU) Alim Majeed told CANA the regional development officer for Linden, Ovid Morrison, was issuing instructions to the consumer shopping complex not to sell food to the union.

"This is a deliberate attempt by the regional development officer to break the strike," Majeed said. The union says more than two-thirds of the industry's 6,000 workers are supporting demands for a return to a five-day work week instead of the recently introduced three-day week.

The Guyana Mining Enterprise introduced the new schedule following declines in foreign exchange earnings from the bauxite sector, hit by reduced demand on the international market.

A GUYMINE official said management had been issuing "chits to all workers, including those on strike for their allocation of cooking oil."

Meanwhile, the GMWU said the Trades Union Congress (TUC) decided at a special executive council meeting to support the union for a return to the five-day work week.

No details were given about how the TUC proposes to back up its decision to provide support.

The union has claimed 100 percent support at the Berbice operations and 90 percent at the Linden operations. But the GUYMINE management said less than half the work force has remained off the job.

CSO: 3298/1287

RULING PNC DISCERNs DESTABILIZING FORCES BEHIND TROUBLES

Plan To Embarrass Government

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 5 Jun 83 p 5

[Text]

There is evidence that some of the rich malcontents in the Guyanese society are trying to use the mass of Guyanese in their attempt to satisfy their craving for wheat flour. They have planned a number of riots for June, the month of the brides.

For some time now, our government had been saying that Guyana was targeted for destabilisation from internal and external sources largely because of the intention to establish Socialism here.

As a result, a number of soi dissant politicians formed a union with the sole objective of challenging the Socialist thrust of this country.

Not having the necessary support to establish legitimate political parties, these groupings have resorted to picking on issues that are causing a measure of discomfort to some.

Not so long ago the import restriction on split peas was one such issue. Then these politicians tried to foment unrest in the sugar industry where the majority of the workers had grown accustomed to the foods produced from the peas.

Today the source of dissatisfaction is wheat flour. As we noted, some of the more affluent in our midst are not prepared to live without imported foods.

These people started a campaign against the use of rice flour to the extent that they got some people to believe the fallacy that too much rice would cause beri beri. Rice is Guyana's staple crop and the third largest crop in the world.

Instant rice flour has emerged as a creditable replacement for wheat flour, as anyone who has tried it could testify.

The campaign to destabilise the government has reached the stage where detractors are now saying there is no food in Guyana. They

are picking on the shortage of edible oil and other edible fats, the absence of wheat flour and the crackdown on smugglers.

But information reaching New Nation states that the real reason for the riots is to embarrass the Burnham Government. These riots have been timed to coincide with the anniversary of the death of Walter Rodney who blew himself up in the vicinity of the Georgetown Prisons.

GBC Bomb Scare

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 5 Jun 83 p 5

[Text]

Destabilisation takes many forms. In addition to the normal and everyday acts among which would be such acts as arson, wanton destruction of property, non-production and sabotage.

More recently there are some in our midst who phone prominent government places with reports that bombs have been placed in the building. These persons know that any such call would result in the immediate cessation of work.

Last Wednesday the High Street branch of the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation was the scene of yet another bomb scare. An employee there reported that the call was

received at about 14:00 hours. The employees remained out-doors for nearly two hours.

At the same time members of the Guyana Fire Service had to be on stand-by around the building.

The employees at High Street had every right to vacate the building and the prankster had every right to feel satisfied at the lost man-hours his phone call produced.

Such is the intention of the opposition.

Undoubtedly the enemy is everywhere. One can only hope that good sense prevails and people who have nothing to do refrain from disrupting our efforts to contribute to the development of Guyana.

Foreign Media Sensationalism

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 5 Jun 83 p 3

[Text]

The haste with which the foreign media reported, inaccurately, that the Guyana Government had ordered out of the country, two officials of the American Embassy is reflective of their need to sensationalise happenings about Guyana.

Two media organisations, UPI and AP both carried inaccurate reports about the actions of the Guyana Government after some persons had linked the presence of the two embassy officials with the work-stoppage in the bauxite industry.

The owners of these organisations believe in 'freedom of the press'

and it is clear that their concept of 'freedom of the press' is the right to be irresponsible.

It is this very press freedom that the United States demanded of Guyana and other developing countries that seek to use the media for the development of their peoples.

Some of those opposed to the Guyana Government and the People's National Congress clamour for the kind of press freedom exhibited by UPI and AP.

Small wonder that with the amount of newsprint they have, they were able to publish libellous statements and pay the penalty in the courts.

Opposition 'Opportunists'

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 12 Jun 83 p 4

[Article by P. H. Daly]

[Text] A STUDY of the Socialist revolution in other countries helps us to understand the problems which Guyana is facing during this period of Socialist transition.

Among other objectives, Socialism, regarding the people as the nation's greatest assets, deals with production and distribution of goods for the benefit of the people. In the old society the elite groups were paramount, they were the privileged and they were pampered.

The opposition of eliticism is inevitable where the Socialist revolution takes place. Such opposition takes many forms, including those of reactionism, opportunism and conspiracies between forces inside and outside to thwart the Socialist thrust.

Opposition by some to the Socialist revolution is inevitable everywhere.

The process of overcoming it is rendered more difficult now with the global engulfment in crisis. Nonetheless such opposition is doomed to be overcome in Guyana as it was overcome elsewhere. It is also inevitable that, in this process of transition, with eliticism fighting a losing battle against egalitarianism, there will be many opportunists, like birds of prey, flying around, feathering their nests.

This is what is happening in Guyana today, with corruption in high places and low. But, just as malpractices are ever present, the move to eliminate malpractices is also inevitable.

Some of these birds of prey are now flying

around our nationalised industries, identifiably bauxite and sugar. National repossession of industries based on the country's natural resources has made bauxite and sugar the property of the people.

But many of these workers, having fallen under the evil spell of reactionaries and opportunists, have walked off their jobs on the pretext of wanting 'food.'

The pretext for staying away is so transparently traitorous that it needs no further censure here except to say that their action is equivalent to people who destroy their own property.

When people do that they run foul of the law which provides a deterrent against arson, and 'arsonists' in our nationalised industries should be stopped.

Concerns About Leadership

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 5 Jun 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] As Socialists we, the members of the People's National Congress, need to examine ourselves. Are we providing leadership by example?

It is important that we ask ourselves whether our praxis is consistent with the resolutions, decisions and policies of our Party and government. It is equally important that we consider the likely effects on the Party and government if we do not practise what we preach.

Recently, Guyanese on

the sidelines and in the opposition were laughing at the Party and government when it was reported that members of the WRSB were found with wheat flour after they had conducted a rice flour demonstration on the Corentyne.

Although the persons concerned were not bona fide members of the WRSB, the fact that they were associated with the organisation resulted in attacks on the Party, government and the WRSB.

General Secretary of the People's National Congress, Cde Ptolemy Reid, in his address at the opening of the New Congress Place, called on Party members to have "Clean hearts, clean minds and clean hands".

That call is so apt that it cannot be over-emphasised. Clean hearts would ensure that we do not victimise those who offend us—this does not mean that we must not take action against those who threaten our

very being—

Clean minds would lead us to think no evil of our comrades. Suspicious thoughts have led to unfortunate experiences and incidents on many occasions.

Clean hands would have avoided all this talk of corruption in our society. They would have also avoided all this talk about preaching the use of rice flour and using wheat flour.

REF: 3293/721

BAUXITE, SUGAR WORKERS' STRIKE DRAWS SUPPORT, CONCERN

Appeal of Four Unions

Georgetown MIRROR in English 5 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] **FOUR** trade unions, representing more than one-quarter of the country's organised labour force, have described the recent reduction of the work week from five to three days by Guymin as "intimidatory and repressive," and called on the TUC to take "whatever urgent steps" needed for the restoration of full employment.

The four unions made this clear to the TUC in a joint June 1 letter to the General Secretary, Joseph Pollydore. The letter, the text of which is published below was signed by Ram Karan, General Secretary of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union; N. K. Gopaul, General Secretary of the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees; B. Philadelphia, General Secretary of the Clerical and Commercial Workers' Union, and Clive Thomas, President of the University of Guyana Staff Association.

"We write to bring to your attention our Unions' grave concern over the action taken by Guymin to drastically reduce the work week, from a minimum of five days per week to three days per week, for a vast majority of workers, who are represented by the Guyana Mine

Workers' Union.

This action, we note, is in contravention of the existing Collective Labour Agreement between the Union and the Company.

You would recall that when the workers took protest strike action recently, demanding an adequate supply of basic food items in the community, the management of Guymin expressed concern over the strike and indicated that it was "The worst thing to have happened to the Industry, at this time". Further that the strike action placed recent initiatives by the Company in jeopardy.

The Four Unions are of the considered view that the Company's action to reduce the work week despite their recent pronouncement is punitive and we are disturbed at this development where there is no regard for workers' conditions of service.

When the workers took protest action for food the police arrested many Union leaders. At the Special Conference of the Guyana Trades Union Congress held on May 21-22, 1983 the Honourable Minister Responsible for Labour in his capacity as a delegate indicated quite rightly that the action by the workers was "industrial". The delegation also re-

cognised the grave situation in which the country finds itself, particularly as it relates to the shortages of basic food items, and unanimously approved a resolution urging:

"That the T.U.C. take such immediate steps including protest demonstration, if necessary, to ensure the importation of these items and that the distribution be on a fair and equitable basis to all."

The mineworkers are resolute in their struggle for food. The shortages exist in every community.

The action taken by Guymin can also be viewed intimidatory and repressive.

This situation demands the involvement of the T.U.C. and all affiliated Unions.

We would therefore urge that you convene a Special Conference, or a General Council Meeting or take whatever urgent steps necessary to bring about a satisfactory resolution of these matters.

Please be assured that we remain ready and willing to give whatever support needed to ensure that the spirit of the resolution is realised and for the restoration of full employment at Guymin."

Report on Strike Action

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 6 Jun 83 pp 1, 4

[Text] Last week, the West Coast of Demerara rang with workers' strike action supported by multiracial masses in the battle against hunger.

It is important to note that the West Coast led the sugar belt in the anti-hunger protests and that the leading role was played by advanced Indo-Guyanese and Afro-Guyanese workers, not acting under the orders of any party or any union.

After the workers' ad hoc committee came out in solidarity with the arrested bauxite workers on May 20, the grouping of worker-leaders at Uitvlugt and Leonora decided to invite bauxite workers to speak with them. After an exchange of reports, they established a Sugar & Bauxite Workers Unity Committee which decided on a one-day-a-week strike for essential foods including wheat, split peas, oil and milk.

Because this was a new development, those who represented the existing style of organisation were somewhat uneasy. The multiracial committee of Indo-Guyanese and Afro-Guyanese sugar workers from several departments went ahead with a singleness of purpose. They were able to put out their own handbills and to mobilise both the Indian and African villagers in the whole area in spirited marches.

The Uitvlugt-Leonora unity committee then sent delegates to Wismar-Mackenzie on an exchange visit. Plans for a joint conference at a later stage have been discussed.

The workers are extremely proud of the unity they have achieved by their own efforts and are alert against any moves which tend towards division.

Wednesday, June 1st, 1983 was the date of the third strike called by the workers' movement. The workers' strike met a full response, except for some union representatives who felt it was their duty to remain at work. Some also visited communities advising against marching on Wednesday, saying that the union was calling a protest on June 2nd. This caused a slight drop in the turnout on the march which reached a figure of 2000.

The march on Wednesday moved from Leonora through the schemes, and on Vergenoegen. On the way back, at East Meten-meer-zorg, the march was confronted with the riot police who arrived in a seized truck.

Some of the moving spirits kept out of the way when they saw that selected persons were being arrested by the TSU. According to the workers 13 workers were arrested and three were released afterwards. Up to that stage there was no beating.

On Thursday, June 2, GAWU, under pressure from the workers called a food strike. OPEN WORD salutes GAWU. The workers are pointing in the correct

direction and all healthy forces must follow that direction and point out any errors they detect as they do so. The June 2nd action received the full support of the unity committee who assisted by calling out the workers from the factories.

Those who had been advised by union representatives not to march on Wednesday, turned out, making Thursday's march larger than that of Wednesday.

The union leaders did not take the marches to the Leonora police station as expected, to demand the release of the prisoners. The march ended in Ocean View where it was dispersed by the TSU at about 11 a.m.

After dispersing the march, about six TSU units rioted. They beat men and women with gun-butts and helmets. They drove old people from the street, closed at least one shop and engaged in other forms of disorderly behaviour and cruelty.

OPEN WORD is certain that, as it should be, the union was pushed into action by the workers. Workers in other industries must note and weight these experiences.

The movement of the workers will very likely change some of the unions involved. They should come out of the struggle stronger and more democratic.

TUC Appeal

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

THE Executive Council of the Guyana Trades Union Congress (TUC) yesterday called on Guymine and the two unions in the Bauxite industry to "expedite the process of negotiations ...with a view to promoting a solution to the situation in the industry in the national interest."

The TUC's appeal was made in the wake of discussions involving its executive council and representatives of the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors Union (GBSU) and the Guyana Mine Workers Union (GMWU).

The discussions on the situation in the country's vital bauxite industry got underway on Monday in Georgetown and were continued yesterday.

In its appeal, the TUC

urged that the process of negotiations be expedited "within the terms of the collective bargaining agreements" between the company and the unions.

In recent weeks the situation in the Bauxite Industry has been an uneasy one with workers going on strike and the unions demanding, among other things, the importation of wheat flour, and split-peas by the government.

Meanwhile, Guymine which continues to feel the full effects of the worldwide recession which has resulted in the drastic contraction of the market for bauxite and bauxite products, but which has pursued a policy of avoiding retrenchment, has been forced to introduce a three-day work-week for workers attached to several sections of its Linden operations.

Unity Committee Release

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 13 Jun 83 p 6

[Text] OPEN WORD has been asked to publish the following release from the Sugar & Bauxite Workers Unity Committee movement:

"Four Sugar & Bauxite Workers Unity Committees have decided to fix monthly quotas of Food Heroes. The Food Hero is anyone arrested while struggling for food and taken to a police station and held for one hour or more.

Our target for the month of June, to test the effect of our struggle is 150. Up to last Thursday, the number was 62 when well known political names are left out. (This number includes the Bauxite 24 and West Coast 29.) This means that the workers' unity movement will expect 88 more food heroes to be arrested this month to achieve our target.

If the police want to arrest those who are out on the streets and away from their jobs marching for a food supply and to defend their children and give them the right to grow, then they will help us to meet our target of heroes for the month.

We are appealing to workers in all locations to march when on strike so that the people will know what the strike is about and give support. IT IS A STRIKE OF PRODUCERS FOR THE FOOD TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO PRODUCE. The aim is not governmental changes which people are free to fight for by themselves, but our aim is to bring back on the market supplies of wheat flour, split peas, oil, salt, milk and other essential goods.

DO NOT FEAR ARREST. BE BRAVE AND HAVE COURAGE. The Sugar & Bauxite Unity Committees will defend all victims with our labour power. We are not lawless people.

We are appealing for the heroes quota, men and women, of industrial prisoners so that our fellow trade unionists in the Caribbean can understand what is our condition and what we are doing about it.

If the June target is made, the target for July will be revised.

Sugar, bauxite and other workers, and all who wish to support! Since they are giving us jail instead of food, let us show them that those who defend workers' interests are not afraid of jail. SO WE ARE FIXING THE QUOTA. IT IS UP TO THE POLICE TO ASSIST US IN OUR FREEDOM TARGET.

SIXTY-TWO DOWN, EIGHTY-EIGHT TO GO!

Industry Statement

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 12 Jun 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] CHAIRMAN of the Bauxite Industry Development Company Bernard Crawford yesterday categorically denied that the introduction of a three-day work week at Guymine's Linden operations was a retaliatory measure against the continuing workers' protest in the bauxite industry.

He said in the light of present production levels the market situation and the image of the industry, it had been decided to cut costs to a minimum.

"It had nothing to do with retaliatory measures," he told journalists on a Face-the-Nation programme on which he acknowledged that there was some misunderstanding about the three-day work week.

Cde Crawford added: "One does not play games with the bauxite industry. At least not the management."

"The BIDCO Chairman said it was unfortunate that the unions did not take advantage of the offer made at the time of the introduction of the three-day week to have discussions with the management, but talks were now going on with the Guyana Mine Workers' Union about the issue and terms of resumption.

He hoped that very shortly Guymine would be able to do the same thing with the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors' Union and that normalcy would return to the industry soon.

"We are prepared to do everything humanly possible within our competence to bring this unfortunate situation to an early end," he stressed.

He said the unions recognise that the company had nothing to do with the unsatisfactory food situation which sparked the protest, and he pointed to the admission by one union leader that even the Government has been a victim of the international economic situation.

However, Guymine had become involved in the procurement and distribution of food, had made personnel from the system available, and the food situation had now greatly improved.

That being the case, Cde Crawford said, it would be a pity if the original problem, based on the availability and distribution of food, was not pushed into the background, and some accommodation arrived at to return the industry to normalcy.

In the meantime, Cde Crawford said, with the help of some young engineers and other workers whom he publicly thanked for staying on the job, the company had been able to minimise, if not eliminate, the worst effects through deployment of work force and reorganisation. But the strike was still causing inconvenience and disruption.

The BIDCO chairman called on workers to recognise that "in our hands lies the destiny of so much of the economy" and bear in mind "the effects of the thing we do on the nation. When bauxite is doing badly the rest of the economy suffers," he said.

He was optimistic, however, that with assistance from international agencies, the industry would be restored to normalcy, good health, and competitiveness.

Criticism of Antistrike Action

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 12 Jun 83 p 2

[Text]

Peaceful action against injustice and corruption is the right of the people at all times.

The protests and strikes among bauxite and sugar workers over food shortages were inevitable. If anything, it is remarkable that the masses of the people have put up for so long with the neglect of their basic needs by the Government.

It is therefore quite unjustifiable for the Government to bring out the troops and special police units to terrorise workers and arrest union leaders. All this while employing their propaganda machinery to distort the reason for the strikes.

In 1979, the last time there was a serious strike in Mackenzie, the troops were also brought out because the strike was deemed political.

This was a strange charge coming from a body that has politicised every facet of Guyanese life - the schools, churches, food distribution, jobs, culture, the courts, the military and the police.

Perhaps it is the workers challenge to this government control in the bauxite industry by their independent action that has sparked off such hostile reactions.

In relation to these developments, members of the armed forces especially the officers, should reflect on the demeaning role their organisations are being asked to play.

A large amount of the time of the police force is taken up, at

the instance of the government in seizing banned essential items such as flour, split-peas etc. instead of fighting serious crime.

As a result the police are becoming the object of popular scorn if not hatred or even parasites on the society.

It would be most unfortunate if another of the State institutions, namely the armed forces were also dragged into confrontation with the people.

It would be a mistake to think that the food issue is an isolated case which the army can assist in resolving and then return to barracks. The experience of the police proves otherwise.

They began arresting traders, then shopkeepers for not displaying items for sale; pavement sellers for infringing bye-laws; country women for selling mangoes on the pavement; children for selling chiclets; bakers for possession of flour; and finally everyone for possession of flour.

The police force seems no longer concerned serious crime as its priority. It is merely implementing the Government's hated food policy and jailing those who oppose it.

Thus far the army has largely escaped being used for explicitly political purposes, apart from strike-breaking here and there.

It would not be to its credit or advantage to be reduced to the level of the police. The army has no reason to fear the opinions of the workers. If the only means of expression available to the workers is to strike, the army, if it inter-

venes at all, should point out to the Government that the simple solution is to listen to the workers, not repress them.

There are no public institutions untainted by the degrading hand of the present Government. If the armed forces are to fulfil their constitutional role they should resist the degradation which follows from assisting the present Government to do battle against the people.

CSO: 3298/722

TUC SPECIAL CONFERENCE DIVIDED OVER CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE

Stand on Food Problem

Georgetown MIRROR in English 29 May 83 p 1

[Text] TREMENDOUS heat was generated during the two-day special conference of the Trades Union Congress (May 21-22) as workers' representatives clashed with pro-government elements within the movement on vital issues facing the nation and immediate workers' interests.

The conference, called especially to consider proposals for amendments to the TUC's constitution, failed to complete that aspect of its work as most of the time was spent in discussing points emanating from the report of TUC General Secretary, Joseph Pollydore.

Especially vocal were the Guyana Mine Workers' Union and the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors' Union delegations which were given a militant reception for their massive demonstration for food at Linden. The Conference, which at one point had seated three government ministers, voted overwhelmingly in support of the bauxite workers' struggle for adequate supplies of foodstuffs and condemned the police brutality demonstrated during the Linden strike where 24 union militants were arrested. Joseph Pollydore said the bauxite strike is a "sign of the times."

Related to the sorry state of the food situation, the Conference unanimously accepted a motion originating from GAWU but presented later as an amended version by Goerge Daniels, TUC Vice-President and President of the Public Service Union calling on the government "to take immediate steps to import adequate supply of basic food items, including wheaten flour."

According to the resolution, the TUC has decided to take "immediate steps, including protest demonstration if necessary for the importation of these food items and that the distribution be on a fair and equitable basis for all."

The Conference also reviewed the economic situation and rejected the present package of the International Monetary Fund which will include a further wage freeze, devaluation, etc., causing more hardships on the workers. Some unions called for a complete break with the IMF while others argued for continued negotiations.

Upon the urgings of unions, the TUC reiterated its earlier call for a political solution as a prerequisite to resolving the present impasse. Also accepted was the position that regardless of IMF talks, there is urgent necessity for wage increases to ease the heavy burdens of the workers at this time.

The Conference adopted a resolution stating that urgent representation be made by the TUC executive to effect amendments to relevant legal instruments "to provide for all workers the legal right to pension of an adequate sum." Also adopted was a resolution empowering the TUC executive to negotiate for an early "enactment of severance pay legislation to enable all employees to receive severance pay for service for one year and over."

When the point came to discuss proposed amendments to the TUC Constitution presented by the Special Committee headed by Goerge Daniels, there were moves by what the TUC General Secretary referred to as a [word illegible] within the delegates, to block the discussions on a point of procedure. However, after some 80 minutes of arguments, it was agreed to go ahead with the proposals. By that time, it was late Sunday afternoon, and Conference decided to meet at a later date to continue the discussions.

Before the adjournment, the Conference got through with one major amendment which stipulates that all new affiliates requesting membership to the TUC must have no less than 150 members and must be in existence for more than a year. Previously there was no stipulation as to the size of unions in considering membership to the TUC. This, argued the supporters of the motion, is to prevent small unions from mushrooming and to consolidate the unity of the movement. Among those who opposed the motion were some PNC-affiliated unions, but they lost in the voting.

PPP Support for Conference

Georgetown MIRROR in English 29 May 83 p 4

[Text] THE PEOPLE'S Progressive Party has welcomed the positive moves made by the Guyana Trades Union Congress (TUC) at its Special Conference on May 21-22, 1983. It observed in a press statement that the steps taken are in the right direction and augur well for the future if the leadership presses on with this advantage in the interest of the workers and the movement. The Party notes that some positive features of the conference pertained to:

- Demand for increased wages and an end to the wage-freeze policy
- Demand for wheat flour and an end to the acute food shortage
- Support for food demonstrations initiated by affiliated unions and frustrated workers
- Support for striking mine workers
- Amendment to the constitution to fix the minimum membership of affiliates

--Rejection of the IMF package as it was presented to the regime

--Reiteration of the urgent need for a political solution in Guyana.

The PPP is constrained to observe, however, that the PNC regime as currently oriented, is incapable of serious positive negotiations with the IMF. The PNC has a history of surrender to IMF diktat, and has shown no spine in talks with the IMF. If merely told to negotiate further, the PNC regime may simply accept a less harsh package, which nevertheless will still be harmful to the workers and the nation.

The PPP says that to be successful, negotiations with the IMF must take place from a position of economic strength, and a sound development policy and programme. These ingredients are sadly lacking in Guyana. The PNC therefore will be negotiating from a position of weakness, and this is where the imperialist IMF will press home its "conditional" advantage.

The Party reiterates that IMF conditions for loans and credits to Third World countries hinge on capitalistic domestic formulas, foreign dependency relations with the imperialist states, and attacks on the living standards of the working people. These conditions cannot develop a nation. On the contrary, they increase its debt-ridden status, and sow the seeds of conflict, repression, and stagnation.

Since 1978, the IMF's packages have been undertaken, but in 1983 no improvement in the economy or society is discernable. Between 1977-81, the GDP went down by 9% and in 1982 alone it went down by 8% in an accelerated nose dive. The IMF is therefore no solution to Guyana's teeming problems.

What is clearly needed is an alternative programme to the unworkable anti-national IMF packages--a programme of recovery. This the PNC is organically incapable of either conceiving or bringing forth from gestation.

In Jamaica, touted as the capitalist model for the Caribbean, the IMF has gone so far as to prevail upon the Seaga regime to sell off all its sugar factories except one. Similar pressures are emanating from the IMF in relation to Guyana. These pressures must be resisted. No public-sector enterprise should be sold off, and no capitalist takeover of management in public-sector enterprises should be tolerated.

The PPP in welcoming the TUC conference decisions also notes its reiteration of a political solution for Guyana. The Party calls on all TUC affiliates to work energetically towards the achievement of such a development in our beloved country, reeling under the heel of PNC intolerance. Such a political solution would be in the interest of the future of this nation.

The PNC despite its chatter about "national unity" does not want any such thing, and is not in favour of any political solution based on a realistic assessment of Guyana's problems. The PNC selfishly puts its own privileges and malpractices before the national interest.

The PPP supports bauxite and other workers in their hard struggle for bread, wheat flour and other essential food supplies being denied them, and condemns the use of police measures against bauxite workers by the frightened regime. More positive manifestations like the recent miners' strike are needed at this juncture, because the burden of the hard battle for food and jobs should not be left to one or two unions. The TUC as the umbrella body should take up this matter as one of priority.

There should be a general nation-wide TUC-sponsored protest demonstration. Only then will the PNC regime take serious notice of mass dissatisfaction and remedy the situation.

CSO: 3298/723

FOOD SHORTAGES CONTINUE AS SOURCE OF PROTESTS, UNREST

Meeting on Sugar Belt Supplies

Georgetown MIRROR in English 29 May 83 p 4

[Text] A 17-man delegation of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union, headed by Honorary President, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, met with Guysuco's Chief Industrial Relations Officer, D.P. Sankar, to discuss the acute shortage and discrimination in distribution of essential food supplies in the sugar belt. The two hour talks at Guysuco Headquarters on Wednesday May 25, ended with Guysuco refusing to handle the distribution of milk, oil and margarine. However, local committees are to be set up in each estate to look into the feasibility of GAWU's proposals. There will be a meeting with the Ministry responsible for distribution to see that there is equality of distribution of all other items. The following is a press release issued by the Union on the outcome of the talks.

GUYSUCO has shown utter contempt for the workers. At a meeting between GUYSUCO and GAWU, the employers refused to follow the example of other state corporations and distribute certain essential commodities--milk, oil and margarine--to their employees. GUYSUCO claims that it is impractical for them to undertake the distribution of these commodities.

GAWU asked that the employers agree to set up a management-workers committee to examine the feasibility of such an exercise; that is, to determine whether ways and means can be found for the employer and the union, in co-operation, to carry out the exercises of making these limited number of scarce commodities available to the workers. GUYSUCO dogmatically dismissed the idea.

GAWU condemns the dictatorial attitude of management. It makes nonsense of the whole idea of workers' consultation, not to speak of workers' control.

The Corporation wants a joint approach to the Ministry of Trade for distribution of goods under the existing system of distribution. While the union is not opposed to this approach, it feels that this should be for distribution in the estates of goods other than those which are being distributed at work-places.

GAWU pledges to mount a campaign of struggle to ensure that an end be brought to this bureaucratic type of management and decision-making and that sugar workers are treated fairly and get an adequate share from their sweat and labour.

Supplies for Linden

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Jun 83 pp 1, 4

[Text] THE Trade Ministry yesterday released details about food and other consumer items in short supply sent to the Linden community during the period May 10 to May 30.

It is conceded that while the food situation in the Linden area was a genuine cause for concern, in recent weeks genuine attempts have been made to bring about marked improvement in the situation.

Recently the two bauxite unions withdrew from the food committee set up to effect improvement in the distribution. The unions contend that they had no control over the importation of food items and now demand that items such as wheat flour and split peas be imported.

According to the Trade Ministry large quantities of rice, sugar, margarine, salt, milk, coffee, tea, laundry and toilet soap, detergents and toilet paper were sent to the bauxite community during the May 10-30 period.

Other items sent during the same period included tooth paste, matches, mosquito coil, cornmeal and instant rice flour.

A breakdown shows that 3 115 bags (50 kg) rice, 500 sacks (30 x 1 lb) rice, 1030 bags (102 kg) sugar, 500 cartons (12 x 500 g) margarine, 300 cartons Guyana coffee and 150 bags (50 kg) salt were among the items sent to Linden.

Among the items which were scheduled to be sent yesterday were 810 cartons full cream powdered milk, 35 drums of oil, 110 cartons of garlic, 30 cartons of sweet biscuits, 190 cartons of laundry soap and 100 cartons of toilet paper.

Editorial Comment

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Jun 83 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

The Ministry of Trade last evening released figures concerning substantial quantities of food sent to the mining community at Linden since May 10. And with the setting up of a Food Committee to monitor distribution there, the administration has admitted that there was a problem and has indicated its determination to find a solution.

Now, with the unions representing bauxite workers speaking of strike action

each Thursday, until such time as, unionists say, as the food situation improves, it appears that the proposed industrial action is dictated by other imperatives.

The unions have relinquished their seat on the Food Committee. And the reason for this, the unions say, is that unionists will in no way be able to influence importation of food.

But then the Committee was established to monitor distribution and not to influence importation of food.

It must be remembered that, at the beginning, the Linden community was upset about insufficient supplies of food items in outlets there. It was much later that the demand for wheat flour came, a new factor which can hardly be satisfied at this time by the Government. And according to the Ministry of Trade, over the past three weeks, the Linden community has been infused with food items, some of which have not been available in the capital city for some weeks.

The pattern emerging from all this tends to indicate that the food issue is a red herring to mask some other dark purpose.

Nowadays, the bauxite boats hardly ever steam past Port Georgetown, up the Demerara River to the loading docks at Linden. Yet the Guymine management, concerned about the welfare of its employees, continues to support an unwieldy workforce, allowing itself to progressively build up an overwhelming overdraft.

The new three-day working week for some sections of Guymine is an attempt to curb this headlong plunge into insolvency.

Of course, today, communities throughout the length and breadth of Guyana experience insufficient supplies of one food item or another at one time or another. At least for the foreseeable future, Guyanese will not benefit from all the food they should have all the time. Workers at Linden together with their brothers and sisters all over the country, must be prepared to bear with whatever shortages there are, and must realise that any withdrawal of labour can only heighten the crisis we all face.

Rice Crop Appeal

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

EAST Berbice-
Corentyne Regional
Chairman, Surujnarine
Singh, yesterday ap-
pealed to owners of
private combines to
make their machines
available to farmers to
harvest the current rice
crop before it is ruined
by rain.

He said that the Region was prepared to assist private owners to get their machinery in the fields rather than have them idle under houses.

Cde Singh also pointed out that the ingress and

egress dams leading to some of the rice fields are in bad condition and to save them from being damaged by tractors and trucks it was decided to use punts for the transportation of paddy.

The Chairman reported that Guysuco has made available four punts which are now being used for this purpose in Black Bush Polder and the Number 52/74 District on the Corentyne where crops are threatened.

Rice Crop Rescue Operation

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

THE Guyana Rice Board yesterday placed all its machinery at the disposal of farmers in Berbice to help save the rice crop in Region Six, East Berbice-Corentyne.

This decision was taken by Guyana Rice Board General Manager Leon Dundas during a two-day visit to Black Bush Polder and the Upper Corentyne.

The GRB General Manager explained that so far seven thousand acres of rice have been harvested while another ten thousand acres still remain to be gleaned.

He explained that because of heavy rains the conditions of some of the dams leading to the rice fields were in a deplorable condition and could not accommodate machinery.

He commended Guysuco for making punts available to the Region for the transportation of farmers' paddy from the fields to the main dams and roads.

Cde. Dundas, however, appealed to private owners of machinery to desist from the habit of hiding their machinery under their homes. He urged them to place their equipment at the disposal of farmers in order to assist in the reaping of their crops and the ploughing of their fields.

Illegal Rice Dealing

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

THE CAMPAIGN will be stepped up against the illegal export of rice, Guyana Rice Board General Manager Leon Dundas has disclosed.

In a recent interview the top GRB official said that the Board has received reports of several shipments of rice leaving the country illegally and will move to stamp out this practice.

Illegal shipments of rice leaving the country will, if allowed to get out of hand, certainly affect

the Board's export arrangements, Cde Dundas said.

Guyana loses thousands of dollars when rice is sold illegally overseas. Reports claim that rice is shipped illegally out of the country from the Supenaam area in the Essequibo river and from the Corentyne River to Trinidad, Barbados, Antigua and St. Vincent.

According to law, all rice produced in Guyana must be sold to the Guyana Rice Board which is the only agency authorised to sell rice overseas.

Rice Export Situation

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 12 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

THE Guyana Rice Board (GRB) has surpassed its export targets for the month of May, a top GRB official said yesterday.

Responding to questions on GRB's export market quotas, General Manager Leon Dundas said the board exported 5 157 tonnes of rice during May. These sales are expected to earn the equivalent of \$6.6 million (G) dollars in foreign exchange from six countries.

The GRB has set a monthly target of 5 000 tonnes this year.

Meanwhile, one vessel left earlier this month for Trinidad and Tobago with a 500 tonne shipment of rice, and the M.V. Coaster, will sail shortly with 800 tonnes, also for Trinidad.

Cde Dundas also said the M.V. Dylan will leave today for St. Vincent with a 3 000-tonne shipment. Two other vessels are at

present moving into position to be loaded with 1 700 tonnes of rice for Trinidad, he added.

Three thousand tonnes of rice will also be shipped later this month to the German Democratic Republic, the GRB General Manager said. In addition, shipments are expected to leave shortly for Barbados, Martinique, and Guadeloupe, while arrangements are being finalised for shipments to Cayenne.

The General Manager said that the chances of Guyana increasing its export commitments to other countries are favourable.

Offers to purchase rice from Guyana have come from France, and Holland, but Guyana's ability to take up such offers will depend on the levels of this year's rice production, the GRB manager noted. He gave the assurance that rice for local consumption will be easily available.

Panic Buying of Sugar

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 14 Jun 83 p 8

[Excerpt]

A NUMBER of supermarkets and groceries around the city, including the state-owned Guyana Stores Ltd (GSL), are without supplies of sugar, following panic-buying by consumers over the weekend.

The major distribution centres reported yesterday that their weekly quotas have now been spread out to cover periods of up to three weeks and, in other cases, even longer.

A statement from the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO), however, stated at weekend that there was no sugar shortage. "In keeping with its (GUYSUCO's) distribution policy, enough sugar has been stock-piled to meet local commitments in the current out-of-crop period," the release noted.

The ruling People's

National Congress (PNC)-run Knowledge Sharing Institute, (KSI), about one of the country's biggest distributing agencies has had its weekly quota extended to cover two weeks. A spokesman for the KSI told the Chronicle yesterday that the 72 tons of sugar purchased for Georgetown and the East Coast, Demerara, as well as 60 tons for the West Coast and the West Bank, Demerara, will be delivered within the next two weeks. "We have had to cut consumer amounts, from a bag and over to eight pounds," he said.

Guyana Stores, on the other hand, has been unable to cope with the long queues for sugar at its outlets around the city. "Under normal conditions the amount of sugar we ordered should last us for a week, but the demand has been so heavy that we were sold out within minutes." GSL usually receives almost nine tons per day between Tuesdays and Fridays, but the supermarket last had sugar on Saturday.

Arrest of Protesters

Georgetown MIRROR in English 5 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

MILITANTS who joined a picket line of the People's Progressive Party, including three Central Executive members, were arrested by top members of the Guyana Police Force during a demonstration outside the Parliament buildings, protesting the acute food shortage currently gripping the entire country.

The demonstration outside Parliament attracted a huge

sympathetic crowd and scores of nervous policemen. As the exercise began some police officers were openly hostile to the demonstrators. They later pounced and promptly arrested nine persons and forced them into Police vehicles.

They were then taken to Brickdam station, shifted to the CID Head Quarters in Eve Leary and later brought back to the Brickdam lock-ups. They

were released after being kept for 24 hours and charged with disorderly behaviour. The nine detainees appeared before a city magistrate and were placed on \$100. bail each.

At the C.I.D. head-quarters while screaming and cries of "mercy, mercy" came from a crime suspect upstairs, one senior police officer was telling the detainees from the picket line to 'defect' to the PNC.

Those arrested were Moses Nagamootoo, MIRROR Journalist; Harold Snagg, City Councillor, Navin Chandarpal, PYO First Secretary; Gail Teixeira, WPO International Secretary,

Rajendra Bissessar, UG Graduate; A. Majeed, 53 year-old farmer; Anand Persaud, cane cutter; Jack Anand, LBI GAWU representative; Shivlochan, GAWU General Council member and shop steward at Uitvlugt estate.

Despite the arrests the picketing went on. Among the slogans were: "No Food No Work"; "Stop the Import Ban"; "We want Food"; "Down with the PNC"; "No to the IMF"; "Stop Wage Freeze."

All told some 67 arrests have been made during the recent spate of food protests in various parts of the country.

Human Rights Group's Appeal

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 5 Jun 83 p 2

[Text] *THE GUYANA HUMAN Rights Association last Tuesday issued the following appeal which was carried in the leading newspapers in the Caribbean. We fully endorse the views expressed. Editor.*

SINCE APRIL 1982 wheaten flour has not been available in shops in Guyana because the government has refused to make foreign exchange available to purchase wheat.

Because flour is a central part of all Guyanese diet, especially in bread and roti, the population is suffering great hardship and an extensive illegal trade has developed as a result.

A similar experience has occurred in regard to powdered milk, cooking oil and split peas.

In a society plagued by violent crime, the police are devoting their energies to hounding persons in possession of banned foodstuffs, especially flour.

Bread has been confiscated by the police who have also extorted money from bakers and bread vendors, and destroyed bread on the public streets.

West Indians are familiar with the sight of Guyanese traders buying up goods in their commercial centres and then besieging

their airports with mountains of baggage.

A further problem for Caribbean territories is the number of (often highly-qualified) Guyanese competing for jobs in the islands and the related issue of illegal immigration.

We would like our neighbours in the region to be clear that it is the restrictive food policy of the Guyana government which is largely responsible for the burdens being placed on their economies, airport facilities and job opportunities at the present time.

On May 1, 1983, President Forbes Burnham addressing the nation on the matter of illegal trade declared:

"They can say what the hell they like. Any vehicle, any craft found with any smuggling thing, I am going to have it seized in the name of the government for good. You can try the issue at court, but I tekking it for the government. You follow me? You hear me? You understands me? You smells me? This is a time of war. This is not a time for technicalities. I leave that for the lawyers."

Since this speech was made more than forty (40) private vehicles have been seized, including hire-cars, private cars and company vehicles, planes, speedboat and tractor.

In some cases hire-cars have been seized because passengers had possession of banned items in shopping-bags of which the taxi-drivers were ignorant.

A number of these vehicles have been converted to police use without recourse to the courts.

By contrast, despite the widespread knowledge of police involvement in the benefits of the contraband trade, no police officer has yet been brought before the courts in the current campaign.

The Guyana Human Rights Association is convinced that the oppressiveness of the government's food policy has created the problems referred to above. It is the callous disregard for people demonstrated by this policy which has intensified the flow of Guyanese to other parts of the Caribbean.

Guyanese people are continuing to use all of the limited legal channels available to them to oppose this inhuman food policy, and the Guyana Human Rights Association invites fellow West Indians to join their voices to this protest, and to express their concern to the Guyana government by way of letters, telegrams and other peaceful actions.

Union Action

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 12 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

Both the Guyana Mine Workers' Union and the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors' Union have withdrawn from the committee responsible for monitoring the distribution of food in the bauxite community.

The unions had initiated a series of weekly one-day protest strikes under the pretext that they were seeking an improved food supply in the bauxite mining communities.

The representatives, in addition to requesting adequate supplies of

basic food commodities, issued a call to government for wheat flour, split peas, edible oil, margarine and powdered milk.

The Ministry of Trade, which had been supplying food to Linden, in keeping with the regular consumption pattern of the community, increased supplies of such commodities as rice, sugar, fish, and milk from the Mobilissa Dairy farms.

It also requested that the unions be part of the committee to ensure the

distribution of food and to be in a position to verify statements concerning the distribution of food in the community.

The unions after an initial involvement, have withdrawn from the committee. Among the reasons given was that the unions were in no position to influence the importation of food.

The unions have also been reported as saying that they were not prepared to play price control officers.

Gaibank Boost for Agriculture

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Jun 83 p 3

[Text]

AGRICULTURAL projects in East Berbice-Corentyne are being given a boost by the Guyana Co-operative, Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank (GAIBANK), said the bank's Regional

Manager Bhaskaranand Sukhu Wednesday.

The Regional Manager said that loan applications are being processed in a much shorter time because a branch of the bank has been established in the

Region.

He said that since the establishment of the branch 916 loan applications have been approved for farmers in Region Six and at the moment 285 applications for over a quarter of a million dollars in loans are being processed.

Comrade Sukhu pointed out that the bank, which is the main agency responsible for credit to small farmers, is also paying attention

to the development of the rice industry.

The Gaibank official also disclosed that Berbice farmers owe over one million dollars in arrears to the bank and steps are now being taken to correct this situation. This money, he said, is needed for disbursement to other farmers.

The bank with an assignment to help push

agricultural production intends to provide sixty-four million dollars in credit this year, he said. Of this sum twenty-four million dollars will go to the Agro sector.

According to Comrade Sukhu any farmer whose operation is located in a designated food crop area like Black Rush Polder can obtain a loan for cultivations from two to twenty-five acres.

Region 5 Agricultural Plan

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Jun 83 p 5

[Text] THE regional administration of Region Five has embarked on a five-million dollar plan which will substantially increase the region's agriculture production.

Part of the plan is to increase the region's rice production by some 14 400 hectares this year. The region is expected to cultivate 20 400 hectares (51 000 acres) of rice for the upcoming crop. For this year's first crop, rice farmers cultivated a total of 6000 hectares (10 000 acres).

In an interview Monday, Regional Chairman, Cde Barakat Ally explained that the plan involves the introduction of new drainage canals and reactivating and improving drainage systems in some areas of the region.

This is facilitated by the infrastructural works undertaken by the MMA.

The overall venture aims at improving rice, copra and ground provision yields and increase the output of dairy products.

Farmers in the past were restricted to cultivation on small plots in the region because of inadequate irrigation systems. The Regional Chairman explained that several plots were affected by salt water, a situation which is brought about by inadequate supplies of fresh water.

Two nurseries have been established at Mahaicony and Fort Wellington, the Regional Chairman said. The Mahaicony nursery designed to produce mainly coconut plants, already has a stock of 7000 seedlings and, according to Cde Ally, the administration hopes to increase this figure to 100 000.

The region plans to increase the copra production by 300 per cent, the Regional Chairman said.

There are an estimated 46 000 heads of cattle in the region, Cde Ally said, and 8 000 of these will be identified strictly for dairy purposes. A pasture will be established for this purpose, he added.

In dealing with some of the problems affecting the administration's plans for increased agriculture production, Cde Ally noted that lack of equipment has been a great set back in the rice industry.

The region has the capacity in terms of arable lands to cultivate up to 36 000 hectares (90 000 acres) of rice. The administration has a long-term plan to utilise all these lands, he said.

MEDIA IN MUTUAL RECRIMINATIONS OVER COVERAGE OF CRISIS

MIRROR Attack on STANDARD

Georgetown MIRROR in English 29 May 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] IN an article which does not bear the writer's name, the Catholic Standard in its issue of May 22 has sought to blame "the leaders of the nationalist movement," whom it describes as Jagan and Burnham, for the "economic devastation, dictatorship, moral and social degeneration." Normally we would not waste time trying to correct such distortions and lies, but it now appears that the Catholic Standard has shed its coverings and is coming out, again, in its own clothes. This line, of linking Jagan and the People's Progressive Party with Burnham and his PNC, and blaming both for the severe crisis in Guyana is, apparently, part of the policy of that paper.

FOR the historical records, it is well to recall the origins of the United Force which has always been closely attached to the Catholic Standard and the Church, as well as representing the big business community. It would be hard to deny this. The United Force eventually developed from groups which began as far back as 1947 to combat "Jagan and Communism" and in that year a Catholic Church big business candidate, John Fernandes was sponsored to contest in those early elections against Mrs. Jagan in a Georgetown seat. They and their associates then fought bitterly against the PPP in the 1953 elections, later sending their spokesmen to London to speak to the Churchill government to eliminate the PPP from government. And they succeeded. The Constitution was suspended.

LATER they formed a Defenders Of Freedom which vehemently opposed contacts by the PPP government with the new revolutionary government of Cuba. This group later merged with the big business-dominated United Force, which was one of the main instigators, along with the CIA and the PNC, against the PPP government in the '60s. It took part in all the monstrous acts of that period, which ended with the ousting of the PPP from government BECAUSE THE UNITED FORCE FORMED A COALITION WITH THE PNC. Without that coalition, the PPP would have been in office, for in the 1964 elections, it obtained the highest vote of any single party. But the imperialists and their stooges in Guyana had already made a deal to form a coalition to oust the PPP.

NOW, if the United Force had not gone into the government and put the PNC in office, that party would not have been there today and it is certain that the present crisis and devastation would not have existed. But the United Force and its associates in the Church and its official organ wanted only one thing --the PPP must go.

THE PNC then, using its coalition partner to pass all necessary legislation to keep them in power proceeded to introduce the National Security Act and then began the legislative arrangements to rig the elections. Before the United Force could understand what was happening, it was rigged out of office. The UF began to squawk and it was then that the Catholic Standard took on a new mantle. It was during this period that Father Wong, the then radical editor, carried the famous caption "Fairy Tale Elections" which described so well how the elections were rigged. But his head soon rolled.

WHEN the historical facts are brought into perspective, it is clear that Japan and the PPP are not the cause of the present economic and social chaos. Far from it. It is the United Force and its mentors who literally put the PNC in power and now want to shift the blame elsewhere. The PNC, after discarding its UF partner, and having got the power it wanted, then proceeded on the path which has led to the present crisis.

IT is therefore a deliberate and unsavory move on the part of the Catholic Standard to try to smear the PPP and its leadership, equate it with the PNC and put the blame for the present crisis on other backs than its own. Wasn't it Pontius Pilate who washed his hands of the blame for the death of Jesus Christ? The Catholic Standard seems to be following suit.

PNC Organ's Blast

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 5 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] ..John Smith says, "All men are liars." John Smith is a man. Therefore, John Smith is a liar. There is now the problem of the veracity of John Smith's initial statement.

The Worst Possible Alternative and its cronies are in this bind. They tried to convey to the world that Guyanese are starving. They said that most of the deaths in Guyana were due to malnutrition. They encouraged a misguided few to demonstrate under the slogan, "No food. No work."

The Worst Possible Alternative says it is interested in the welfare of Guyanese. It encourages them to make and carry bombs. It encourages them to smuggle guns and other weapons of destruction into Guyana. These implements are intended to kill or maim its fellow Guyanese. So much for its interest in the welfare of people.

The implements of destruction can damage government and other buildings. They can do so much damage that a lot of the tax-payers' money that could be used for other purposes, would have to be spent on replacing the damaged structures. So much for its interest in the welfare of people.

Which organisation with the interest of the people at heart would encourage them to break the law by staging unauthorised marches and demonstrations in the city, knowing that the marches would end up before the courts?

Then there was the case of the All Party Talks which failed. The Worst Possible Alternative assured those who were foolish enough to attend the talks that the alliance would transcend ideology. Ideology became the focal point of the talks.

The Worst Possible Alternative told Guyanese that it was contesting the 1980 General Elections after it declared itself a political party bent on overthrowing the People's National Congress. It did not contest those elections.

Then there is the Catholic Standard, a so-called religious paper. If this is a church paper then Cde Forbes Burnham is God and the People's National Congress comprise the heavenly host.

Cde Burnham and the People's National Congress appear so often in the pages of this 'church paper' which openly expresses its support for the Worst Possible Alternative.

Over the years we have said, "Be vigilant."

"Beware of the enemy without and within." The Good Book tells us about the evils of deceit and the penalties inherent in deceit.

The deceivers are very present in our midst. They are fomenting unrest. They revel in work stoppages and the rumours of riots while they remain safe in their ivory towers smoking Kent cigarettes and eating four meals each day.

Striking workers are not paid for their days away from their jobs and one wonders whether any of them could have enjoyed facilities similar to those of their detractors.

Workers! We call on you to let good sense prevail and to work for the improvement of our society.

OPEN WORD Slap at MIRROR

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 6 Jun 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] OPEN WORD last week carried a late item on the arrest of PPP members in a food protest. This was an act of solidarity. The names were not known at the time.

It has been our observation for some time now that the MIRROR which supports the PPP, does not hear of any struggles which the PPP or one of its groups did not start.

While it has space to attack the CATHOLIC STANDARD, just when the government leaders were doing the same thing, it finds no space for popular struggles in which other forces are concerned. Very often its attitude to these struggles and to the sufferings of opposition activists is no different from that of the government controlled media.

What simply cannot be tolerated is that a paper that claims to have working people's ambitions, should so trample the efforts of the working people at Uitvlugt and Leonora to unite across racial lines. The MIRROR is guilty of this.

On May 20 the sugar factory workers of Uitvlugt and Leonora led by what they called an ad hoc committee came out on strike in solidarity with the bauxite workers who were imprisoned the day before. At WisMac itself the police held back an Indo-Guyanese worker in detention, believing that the other workers would return to work without him. They did not.

The workers, including PPP workers at the two West Coast factories, declare that GAWU could not create the racial unity now active among the ranks of the workers and marchers in Uitvlugt, Stewartville, Leonora, Den Amstel and spreading to the whole community. In eight years of recognition, GAWU, not because it did not wish to, was unable to achieve this. Now forces among the working class - both Afro-Guyanese, who appeared to be sleeping all along, and Indo-Guyanese who had often fought alone - have combined under the inspiration of the new multiracial consciousness and have advanced. Shamefully, the MIRROR hides this struggle and buries it even deeper than it is buried in the official media.

Yesterday's MIRROR makes no reference at all to the birth of the Sugar & Bauxite Workers Unity Committee on the West Coast. It could not be ignorant of it since the handbills of the Committee circulate openly in the two estates.

MIRROR must bear part of the responsibility for many sugar workers not knowing that effective and united strikes took place on May 20, May 26 and June 1, 1983 at Leonora and Uitvlugt estates.

From the point of view of racial unity, these three actions were definitely the most important events since 1955 when the national movement split on racial lines.

What interest can the MIRROR have in hiding them from the public?

Burying the achievements of workers who are overcoming historic obstacles to their unity is not the function of a revolutionary organ anywhere in the world. The MIRROR also cannot issue appeals in the name of freedom of the press and then suppress the views of other parties which also lack a big press and which are also fighting the dictatorship.

MIRROR Rejoinder

Georgetown MIRROR in English 12 Jun 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] THE Working People's Alliance (WPA) publication Open Word has devoted an editorial viciously attacking the MIRROR newspaper for not carrying reports of its activities in the present crisis but finding space to attack the Catholic Standard. Both the Catholic Standard and its rightist colleagues, and the WPA and its rightist colleagues carry the same line, interestingly enough. The line is that Jagan and Burnham are the same, that the PPP is propping up the PNC, that the PPP is responsible for all the ills of our society, that the PPP and the PNC are both racially based.

THIS newspaper and the PPP, by consistent exposure of the PNC has made the most positive contribution to the loss of the ruling party's support and its present state of having no credibility and being the most hated object in Guyana. Yet, the WPA and its colleagues, instead of building unity on this very positive fact, are trying to split the working class and appear more interested in destroying the PPP than the PNC. The reason for this can be found in its dubious connections and within its own leadership.

THE WPA does not like the MIRROR reply to the Catholic Standard attacks since some of its own members and close colleagues were linked with the whole syndrome of ousting the PPP in the '60s, forming the coalition which literally gave the PNC the government power it holds today, and participating in different aspects of the rigging operations which secured the PNC in office. This, as all should know, is the cause of our troubles today. For those who participated in the process to try to clean themselves up now by trying to link the PPP and PNC is a joke, if it were not such a grim one.

THE WPA and its mouthpieces have been assiduously carrying the line that the PNC and the PPP are racially based and that the WPA is the only multi-racial body in Guyana to bring about racial unity. It even goes so far as to claim in Open Word that strikes at Leonora and Uitvlugt on May 20, May 26 and June 1 were "the three most important events since 1955" in the direction of racial unity. They forget history, particularly history to which they had no part, or their members had parts which must now be hidden.

AS MIRROR reported last week, there were joint strikes on all the sugar estates and in the bauxite industry on June 2, of which the WPA played no part. That unity was fully highlighted in the headline "Sugar-Bauxite Workers Unite in Food Strike". There were massive demonstrations at Leonora and Wales and strong picket lines at Skeldon, Albion, Enmore and Diamond. The bauxite workers had a total strike. Is the WPA claiming responsibility for this, or is this the action of the two largest unions in Guyana? The answer is not difficult to arrive at. The WPA must stop making false claims!

HOWEVER, as the Mirror news item noted, similar action took place in 1979, to further confound those who claim that these workers never came together

before. Sugar workers then went on a sympathy strike with bauxite workers. What the WPA's mouthpiece fails to notice is that the coming together of workers of all races is a result of objective conditions, from a long and principled position of the PPP which has persistently examined Guyana's problems in the light of class positions, not race. The National Patriotic Front proposals and the Party Programme are also part of this process. Surely it was not the PPP which advocated the partition of Guyana or created frankly racist organisations like ASCRIA and IPRA, which sought to organise the people along racial lines. The guns of attack are aimed in the wrong direction. The WPA should clean its own organisation of strong racist elements before levelling attacks on the party which has fought consistently for Guyana's working people and which has proved by its actions as well as its pronouncements that it is not a racist body.

TO suggest that this newspaper would "bury" the achievements of workers is a monstrous and false accusation. So are the false accusations appearing in the Catholic Standard and the WPA publications that the PPP and the PNC are the same and the cause of our troubles.

THE WPA must not sanctimoniously speak about press freedom and then use the press to viciously attack those in the struggle for freedom in Guyana. It cannot hypocritically talk about unity and create disunity among the working people.

STANDARD Criticism of PNC

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 5 Jun 83 p 4

[Article by Observer]

[Text] THE NEW NATION of May 29 in an hysterical article charges that "For Guyanese to say in the presence of others that the government callously restricted the importation of wheat is not only unpatriotic, but treasonous".

In a normal situation, this charge would be considered absurd, but, as Guyanese are aware, Guyana is not normal, and 18 years of PNC rule has seen every effort by the PNC to make the absurd seem real.

Nonetheless, this charge needs to be examined and dealt with by normal people.

The first point to be made is that the decision to restrict the importation of flour, cheese and split peas was made against the advice of nutritionists and other health personnel.

Being aware of people's eating habits within the context of their meagre earnings, these professionals advised against placing these imports on a restricted list. The PNC politicians flew in the face of medical opinion. The consequence has been further hardship for the people.

The PNC's first line of defence of this decision was that there was need to conserve scarce foreign exchange and to ensure its use towards expanding production.

Nonetheless, four excursions - to Mexico, Australia, Brazil and Jamaica, - complete with captive audience and exotic liquor supplies, and which entailed lavish use of foreign exchange, were organised.

The second line of defence was that mung, urid, rice-flour, and a pigeon-pea tree to every yard would fill the gap.

It would take more than exhortation and Guysuco's efforts to replace the 9.2 million pounds of split peas imported in 1981, by mung, urid and pigeon peas.

The third line of defence is the recent explanation that Guyana is being denied credit by certain countries and agencies on the ground that Guyana must change course.

The simple truth is that crass mismanagement by the PNC has all but destroyed the Guyanese economy and any credit-worthiness it may have had.

Future credit or assistance, from any source, will most certainly be conditional.

The restriction of wheat and other food imports was done with callous disregard for the Guyanese people.

Guyanese have every right to criticise the PNC, on matters of national interest.

The real treason lies in the continued refusal to satisfy the demands of the Guyanese people for an adequate supply of food, including wheaten flour.

NEW NATION Reply

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 12 Jun 83 p 8

[Text]

IT IS rather uncustomary for this medium to reply to any attack. But the nonsense contained in the "Catholic Standard" of June 5 under the caption 'Treason to criticise the PNC,' has caused us to adopt this present position just this once.

The Catholic Standard has already taken a severe beating in the columns of a recent edition of the Mirror. Not satisfied with that, the Standard has again floundered into another terrible mistake.

It is noticeable that the

"mistake" was deliberately intended to be misleading and calculated to give the wrong impression. This is not unusual. The Standard is not interested in truth. Whoever edits that rag is dedicated to villification of the PNC, the purveying of bad news and what one has called "cassocked obscenities."

The article published by New Nation on May 29 stated quite clearly and simply that it is tantamount to treason for Guyanese to suggest

that the PNC government callously restricted the importation of wheat after President Forbes Burnham explained that efforts were made to obtain credit of the commodity.

We maintain that any criticism of the government on this issue is treasonous.

This is a war between those who would have Guyana survive in prosperity and those who would have it go under. And whenever there is a war, those who aid the enemy are guilty of treason.

Unfortunately, those who know the real story would rather cloud the issue than tell the truth. We never suggested that

it was treason to criticise the PNC.

The PNC is a mature and experienced political organisation. It accepts and benefits from criticism. It has no need to fear any constructive criticism aimed at bettering the lives of the people of Guyana.

All this is well-known to the Catholic Standard. Therefore that rag's latest scurrility must be deemed to be motivated by malice and envy.

But we of the PNC have grown accustomed to slanted, prejudiced and irresponsible journalism in Guyana. It is notable that what passes for journalism in Guyana is often slander and libel of the PNC.

Enemies of the PNC want the undermining of the Party through psychological propaganda. But talents like those that publish the Catholic Standard and its like can never succeed.

A rally in solidarity with Cuba, El Salvador, Grenada, Nicaragua and Suriname is to be held at Bishops' High School tomorrow at 19:30 hrs.

It is sponsored by a joint working committee, the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace, and the Guyana Peace Council. The main speaker is Cde Halim Majeed, Director of Studies in the Ministry of Higher Education.

ECONOMIC, OTHER PROBLEMS REPORTED IN VARIOUS REGIONS

Health Issue in Yarrow Dam

Georgetown MIRROR in English 29 May 83 pp 2-3

[Text] A wide range of matters was discussed at the last statutory meeting of the Georgetown City Council. PPP Councillor Harold Snagg raised the issue concerning the plight of the people residing on Yarrow Dam, which is parallel to Middle Road, La Penitence. According to the councillor it is a situation where the residents, although living under makeshift huts, are yet faced with hikes in rental imposed by little landlords. Living conditions are the worst compared to other areas in the city he declared. He urged the Council to do something to assist the people of Yarrow Dam, who are also experiencing a serious water problem. The Mayor promised to look into the matter.

It was gleaned from the minutes of the meeting that the infant mortality rate continues to outstrip the birth rate due to diseases including Gastro Enteritis and malnutrition. Last month the birth rate stood at 21.35 per 1000 as against the mortality rate of 44.34 per 1000 population for under 1 year and 42.98 per 1000 for 1 year and over.

Due to unavailability of an adequate quantity of powdered milk there was a switch-over to the use of milk from the Pasteurisation Plant, at Day Care Centres, it was reported. But Councillor Snagg expressed the fear that this milk may affect the metabolism of the individual causing diarrhoea. However, the medical officer in response disclosed that only the change-over may result in temporary suffering from diarrhoea and that the pasteurised milk is not responsible.

Meanwhile PPP representative Lawrence Ramsammy, a former regional councillor, was sworn in by Mayor Mavis Benn on Monday. He replaced the vacancy created by G. Lee's resignation.

West Demerara Situation

Georgetown MIRROR in English 29 May 83 p 2

[Text] WEST DEMERARA residents from Bella Dam, South Pouteroyen, have written a strong letter to Fazeel Rayman, chairman of Region 3, protesting over delays

in effecting essential works in the area. Several issues were raised in the letter which castigated the Region for its lack of performance. In the letter among other matters the question of a bridge which ought to have been repaired months ago was raised. The residents said that "many people including school children have been injured as a result of holes left in this bridge by missing planks".

Also raised were the impassable condition of the mud dam, and the irrigation canal which overflows damaging kitchen gardens. They said that they are willing to do self-help if the Region supplies the materials. For instance if bauxite overburden is provided, they will repair the dam.

Demanding less talk and more action, the residents expressed their lack of confidence in the Regional regime.

Mirror has also been told that there is a shortage of exercise books in the Region, as a result of which students are forced to pay as much as \$1.75 and \$2 for one book in the shops. In addition residents are complaining about the sad condition of the Malgre Tout Government Primary School which "is in a very bad way". When rain falls students get wet in class. This prevents many of them from attending school in rainy weather.

Crisis in Bartica

Georgetown MIRROR in English 5 Jun 83 p 3

[Text] THE township of Bartica in the North West region is beseiged with an all-embracing crisis syndrome which stems from partially its isolation, but basically through neglect by the Government. Food shortages have had a severe impact on the population in Bartica and the surrounding riverain areas. Essential consumer items such as cooking oil, sugar, matches, tea, split-peas, milk, margarine and salt are unavailable. Government food distribution centres are also being accused of practices of unfair distribution of these items whenever available.

Reports from this Region, which is noted for ground provision cultivation, and forestry, state that farmers are disquieted with present conditions concerning the unavailability of necessary tools for farming. Even cutlasses and files are hard to get. Farmers have to apply to the Agriculture Ministry to purchase such minor items as files. The people of Bartica are complaining about the inadequate transport services provided. Lukanani--the only steamer vessel plying the Parika-Bartica route suffers from a leaking roof and poor seating accommodation. Toilet facilities have been out of order a long time now.

Meanwhile, it was reported that workers attached to the T & HD are much agitated over the two-month delay in the payment of their wages. Residents are also faced with a chronic water problem; water is pumped from the river into a tank and with no chemical for purification the water reaches the residents in the same crude form. There were cases of children suffering from Gastro Enteritis, a disease transmitted mainly by contaminated water.

But the main fear is a possible outbreak of malaria which is already detected in the Upper Mazaruni and Cuyuni Rivers where miners and timber grant workers are concentrated. The medical situation is deplorable with an acute drug shortage and only one doctor and dispenser to service the large area.

PPP Councillor Husman Alli has been calling on the Regional Democratic Council to install fire fighting equipment; to recommence repair works on the community centre; to provide housing and agricultural loans to the people; to build roads; reactivate the producers' co-operatives; set-up dairy farming and repair the state bus.

He is also demanding that copies of the minutes and estimates for the R.D.C. for 1983 be circulated to councillors. Copies of the estimates were presented to the councillors and then withdrawn.

More Government Decentralization

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 12 Jun 83 p 13

[Text]

ANNA REGINA —
Several government officers have already taken up appointments in Region Two in keeping with government's programme for the decentralisation of ministries and departments.

Included on the list of officers who have already taken up residence in the region are George Chuck-a-Sang, Superintendent of Lands and Surveys — A. Sagu, Senior Surveyor and Wesrick Stephen, Senior Fisheries Assistant and C. Steaman, Land Development Officer.

Also already in the region are Surveyor Technician G. Westford, Assistant Draughtsman, E. Mayers, Surveyor Foreman Ivan Lebrum, Heavy-Duty Driver Percy Drakes and Diago Painter, Desiree Bobb.

Six crop reporters headed by M. Smith have also taken up their appointments in the region.

Meanwhile, Veterinary Officer Dr. Roopnarain Balkaran is expected to be among those who will arrive shortly to boost the region's veterinary and livestock services.

CSO: 3298/726

BURNHAM, PNC LEADERS HOLD COMMUNITY, MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Reid in Linden

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Jun 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

GOVERNMENT has no objection to workers exercising their democratic right to strike. However, workers also have a democratic right to refuse to participate in a strike and the Government will take a very serious view of any attempt to prevent workers from reporting for duty.

This view was expressed by Minister of Mobilisation, Robert Corbin when he, together with Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid, met residents in Linden at a Face-the-Community meeting at the Wismar-Christianburg Multilateral School Monday night.

Both Cde Reid and Minister Corbin discussed at length the global economic crisis and explained to residents how Guyana became ensnared in the crisis.

The Face-the-Community meeting was held against the backdrop of an industry-wide work-stoppage organised by the Guyana Mine Workers Union (GMWU).

Responding to a question about the new three-day-a-week work schedule introduced recently by Guymin at its Linden operations,

Dr. Reid pointed out that when workers stayed away on Thursday, (the day identified by the GMWU for its one-day-a-week demonstrations), very few reported for duty on the following day (Friday), which, in addition to being the last day in the work-week, is also pay day in the industry. This, he said, has led to both company and workers losing two days each week.

The Prime Minister added that under these circumstances, it did not make good economic sense for a company which has a considerable monthly overdraft to continue to run a five-day-work week schedule.

Dr Reid called on residents to be on their guard and to try to interpret events within the community with critical minds.

Meanwhile, the industry-wide strike entered its second day yesterday. However, while scores of Linden workers gathered around GMWU's headquarters, chimneys within the bauxite plant continued to belch smoke, an indication that some workers were still on duty and that production was still continuing.

Meetings With Party Members

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 12 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

The past week saw the People's National Congress conducting numerous visits to groups in every Region. Party General Secretary, Cde Ptolemy Reid, met group members in the South Georgetown sub-district while Party Leader, Cde Forbes Burnham, met members of the groups at the Victoria Community Centre.

During these meetings a careful look is taken at the operations of the groups and the quality of membership.

Discussions also centred on the problems of group members and the need for a vibrant Party group.

The leadership of the Party has also been made aware of the needs of Party comrades, including the availability of Party membership cards to new applicants and those desirous of renewing membership. Sometimes the cards take a long time to reach such persons.

During the next four weeks, the out-reach (fan-out...) programme will involve meetings of the general membership and those in the process of renewing their cards. The first in the series would be held in the Georgetown District and the other Regional sub-Districts.

On Monday, June 20, Party Leader, Cde Forbes Burnham, is scheduled to meet the general membership of Central Georgetown sub-District at St. Rose's High School, from 19:30 hrs.

A similar meeting is scheduled for Dolphin Community High School on Wednesday, June 20, again at 19:30 hrs.

The primary objectives of these meetings are to provide a forum for Party functionaries at the highest level to meet the general membership; to inform the leadership of initiatives taken by the group to solve problems in their communities; to provide a forum for discussions on issues that could be dealt with at the forthcoming Fifth Biennial Congress.

In addition to the discussions, the Party has also put in place mechanisms to deal with welfare issues affecting members of the Party and residents of the various communities.

One such mechanism is the meeting with the Party leadership at Congress Place every Friday beginning June 24. Other such meetings are to be held at the various Party District Offices.

CSO: 3298/727

LIST OF GOODS OK'D FOR BARTERING ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

..THE Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry is to circulate to its members a list compiled by the Government, stating what goods could be exchanged in any barter arrangement between Guyana and its trading partners.

..President Wainwright McKenzie gave instructions for this yesterday when Senior Vice-President Charles Quintin pointed out that many members did not know what goods were involved.

On the basis of the list, the businessmen are being asked to make submissions to Govern-

ment on barter proposals.

Meanwhile, the Chamber is awaiting a reply from Government as to whether the waiving of the restriction on the importation of machinery and equipment valued up to \$10 000 would remain in force for this year.

When the matter came up at yesterday's statutory meeting of the Chamber, President McKenzie said they had been given an assurance that the renewal of the facility would be looked at but since then there had been no meeting between the private sector and Government.

Former President Ernest Christiani said the facility was only applicable during 1982 and it therefore ceased in December.

CSO: 3298/727

GOVERNMENT DETERMINATION TO END CORRUPTION FOCUSES ON POLICE

Criticism of Bribery Practices

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 5 Jun 83 p 3

[Text]

The vast majority of Guyanese are expressing their surprise at the efforts being made to stamp out corruption in 'high places'. Already a number of senior police officers have been disciplined for alleged corrupt practices.

Some public servants have, from time to time, been disciplined for corrupt practices. But within recent times the dismissal of a number of policemen has been the most serious happening in the fight to stamp out corruption.

Corruption is not merely misappropriating state funds and state property. It is also seeking reward from people we help during the course of our normal duty.

Corruption is helping people break the law with the hope of being rewarded by the culprit.

One of the tenets of the

People's National Congress is to give leadership by example to the people. Small wonder then that those who have had to bribe senior officials have accused the entire government of being corrupt.

Ironically, few people who have offered bribes are loathe to come forward and report the parties who demanded the bribe. Ironically, by their very action, these persons are encouraging corruption.

In times of crisis, the exploitative nature of people tends to come to the fore and if allowed to continue unchecked, leads to anarchy.

That the government intends to stamp out corruption is indeed commendable. One can only hope that those responsible for continuing the campaign do their job properly.

PPP Praise for Police

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 5 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

EAST Berbice — The Police in Berbice have been commended by the minority People's Progressive Party for their current campaign against

criminal activities in the region.

The commendation was made by a five-member delegation from the PPP which met

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Balram Raghubir, and Senior Superintendent Hilton Cummings at the police headquarters in New Amsterdam to discuss the crime situation in the county.

The delegation, headed by the regional supervisor, Rohit Persaud, pledged co-operation and

support for the police in their move to combat crime. They have established 88 community policing groups in Berbice.

The Deputy Commissioner explained that the police were prepared and willing at all times to work along with the community groups to suppress crime, and said

that lawmen were now patrolling the back lands in order to reduce cattle-rustling activities.

Within the past two weeks a number of persons have been arrested and charged by police in connection with a series of armed robberies committed in various areas in the region.

Concern for Police Image

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 15 Jun 83 p 8

[Text] TWO men who gave a bribe of \$16 000 in cash to a former Assistant Commissioner of Police in Berbice for the release of a truck and \$50 000 worth of cloth which were seized by the police pleaded guilty yesterday to the charge of corrupt transaction.

Businessman Harry Naraine Rampersaud and a farmer, Rajendra Lal Kishun, both of Crabwood Creek, Corentyne, were remanded to the New Amsterdam Prison until Friday, June 17, when they will come up for sentence.

They are charged with, on July 13, 1979 at the Police Headquarters in New Amsterdam, corruptly giving Assistant Commissioner of Police Ivan Crandon \$16-000 as an inducement to release a lorry and a quantity of cloth which had been seized for use as exhibits in another case.

Magistrate Fizul Mohamed expressed concern as to what is the image of the Police Force when people can commit such offences.

Magistrate Fizul Mohamed said in this case money seemed to be of no importance when \$16 000 was involved and the maximum fine was only \$750.

As such he said he would make Rampersaud and Kishun an example to others who might wish to trample the image of the police.

In outlining the case for the police State Prosecutor Toolsie Ragnauth related how the two defendants went to the Central Police Station in New Amsterdam on July 10, 1979 and made certain arrangements to see the Assistant Commissioner of Police and to pay him the sum of \$20 000.

He said that a police trap was set on July 13 when Rampersaud and Kishun came and handed the \$16 000 to the Assistant Commissioner of Police and promised to bring the remaining \$4 000 later. At this point the prosecutor explained that Senior Superintendent Oscar Morris who was in hiding emerged from behind the cupboard and said: "This is a police trap."

In mitigation, the defence attorney-at-law described the case not as a bribe but as a foolish transaction.

ARRESTS FOR SMUGGLED FOOD, CONTRABAND GOODS CONTINUE

[Editorial Report] The Georgetown press in issues covering the period 1 to 17 June 1983 continued to report developments in the government's antismuggling campaign. The GUYANA CHRONICLE in English on 3 Jun, page 3, reported that three men running a boat of illegal wheat flour were jailed for 3 months and had their boat confiscated. On 5 June, page 8, the PNC organ NEW NATION reported that taxi drivers were helping in the movement of contraband goods:

"The running of contraband between Corentyne and Georgetown has reduced drastically following a new course of police action. Vehicles found transporting contraband goods are seized.

"For some time, drivers of hire cars have been known to help people transport contraband and uncustomed goods. In the event of interception by the police, persons who owned the goods would face prosecution.

"A police source said that in this manner, drivers and owners of motor vehicles would return almost immediately for another load of contraband-carrying passengers."

The GUYANA CHRONICLE in English on 7 June, page 1, noted the arrest of 15 people in Berbice on 4-5 June. The report concluded:

"According to Senior Superintendent Hilton Cummings the contraband trade has taken on new trends as hard core smugglers have adopted new techniques in the trade. But, he said, the police are determined to wipe out the illegal trade which is causing undue hardships on the economy of the State."

The GUYANA CHRONICLE of 9 June, page 5, reported that 23 additional individuals in Berbice had been arrested the previous day, charged with having "uncustomed and prohibited goods." They were arrested after police stopped and searched a GTSL bus; the illegal goods were all food items. The report added that six others in Demerara charged with possession of wheat flour were fined a total of over \$1,000 after pleading guilty. On 17 June, the GUYANA CHRONICLE, on page 5, reported the arrest of 20 people involved in the trucking of contraband wheat flour at the New Amsterdam ferry slip.

JOINT PEACE COMMITTEE AGAINST NUCLEAR WAR ACTIVATED

Formative Meeting

Georgetown MIRROR in English 29 May 83 p 3

[Text]

ANNOUNCING the formation of a Preparatory Committee for the World Assembly for Peace and Life Against Nuclear War, the Guyana Peace Council stated that:

Representatives of a number of organisations, bodies and groups met at Friendship House, South Road, Georgetown on Monday, May 23 and agreed to the formation of the Preparatory Committee — preparatory, that is, to and for publicising the forthcoming World Conference on Peace and Life Against Nuclear War to be held in Prague, Czechoslovakia from June 21 to 26, 1983. Thereafter, the Committee becomes a Continuation Committee carrying on the demand of peoples all over the world for a halt to the arms race and the abolition of nuclear arsenals that threaten the common survival of the human race and its civilisation.

Represented at the meeting were the Anglican and Hindu community, the Guyana Medical Association, the Guyana Council of Churches, the Women's Progressive Organisation, the Progressive Youth Organisation, the Guyana Peace Council, Friendship Societies and others.

Invitations to join in the formation of such a Committee had

been sent by Dr. Cheddi Jagan, President of the Guyana Peace Council and Member of the Presidential Committee of the World Peace Council to a large number of organisations, including religious and professional bodies, trade unions and many prominent individuals. A letter in January last was followed by another on April 27 (when the Appeal by the International Preparatory Committee of the World Assembly for Peace and Life Against Nuclear War circulated) culminating with the invitation to last Monday's inaugural meeting.

Among the suggestions made for the work of the Committee was the sponsoring of video and film shows, radio talks and interviews on the various points of view — scientific, medical, religious, etc. Material for a photographic exhibition would be sought, depicting, for instance, the effects of the atom bombing of Japan — and the immediate and long-term effects of a nuclear war in particular against which this campaign is being launched. Another suggestion was that there should be "a Day of Prayer for Peace": this was readily accepted, and Sunday, June 19 was agreed for this event.

CHRONICLE Report

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Jun 83 p 9

[Text] According to a report in the SUNDAY CHRONICLE of June 5, 1983, representatives of the PPP-led Guyana Peace Council and the PNC-led Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace have agreed to establish a Joint Working Committee "to sponsor a number of activities which will include a solidarity rally with the peoples of Nicaragua, Cuba, Grenada, Suriname and El Salvador, a symposium on disarmament, Peace and Development and a Week-end of Prayer from June 17-19, 1983".

Citizens have expressed to OPEN WORD their concern that the PPP is again being manipulated by the PNC to dress up its overseas image as a progressive force when everyone knows that the CIA-sponsored Burnham dictatorship is one of the most dangerous threats to the Caribbean revolution. They also commented on the bad taste of joining with the assassins of Walter Rodney, the week of June 13, to defend a cause of which Walter Rodney was a world renowned champion.

OPEN WORD also notes that the PNC has uttered not a word of condemnation, either here or abroad against the invasion of Nicaragua. Nor did the PNC media report the March 28 multiracial picket of the US Embassy to protest the terrorism of Reagan against Cuba, Grenada, Nicaragua, Suriname and the people of El Salvador. The May 10th Inter-Faith service for peace in the Caribbean and attended by a wide cross-section of citizens did not rate a mention in the PNC press.

WPA Blast at PPP

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 6 Jun 83 p 5

[Text] REPRESENTATIVES from preparatory committees organised by the Guyana Peace Council and Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace for the World Assembly for Peace and Life against Nuclear War met last Thursday, to co-ordinate their activity to publicise the World Assembly which is being held from June 21-26 1983 in Prague Czechoslovakia. The efforts are aimed at sensitising the Guyanese people to the present danger of a Nuclear War, promoting the cause of World Peace, and having the Caribbean declared a Zone of Peace.

The World Assembly is being held at a time when the world is faced

with the threat of the extinction of the human race and a universal cry is being heard the world over particularly in Europe and North America. It is a cry which is sounded by all people united in their belief that only in an environment of peace and security can humankind be free to pursue their independent strategies of human and national development.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Caribbean and Latin America region. The untold misery which the people of the region must endure can only be relieved by the cessation of the armed conflicts which are being sponsored by forces outside of the

region in an effort to thwart the desires of the people from pursuing the various paths of development which they perceive to fit their experience and aspiration.

Arising from the discussions, it was agreed that a Joint Working Committee of the two preparatory committees will be established to sponsor a number of activities which will include a solidarity rally with the peoples of Nicaragua, Cuba, Grenada, Suriname and El Salvador, a symposium on Disarmament, Peace and Development and a Week-end of Prayer from June 17 to 19, 1983.

PRICE INCREASES ANNOUNCED FOR COPRA, EDIBLE OIL

Increase of 300 Percent

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Jun 83 pp 1, 5

[Text] GOVERNMENT yesterday announced an almost 300 per cent increase in the prices for all grades of copra in an attempt to stimulate copra production and promote the local edible oil industry.

The price for edible oil has also been increased. The new price for edible oil will be \$3.83 per pint.

In addition, consideration is being given to offering additional incentives to farmers to produce copra.

The new price announced for grade one copra is \$1.50 per pound instead of 55 cents per pound. Grade Two copra will now be bought at \$1.39 per pound, 88 cents more than the previous 51 cents per pound. The price now being offered for lower grades of copra has been increased to \$1.09 per pound from 40 cents per pound.

Increased prices for copra have been advocated for some time now by coconut growers who complained that the price had been fixed at a level which did not take into consideration factors such as labour costs, thus rendering copra production unprofitable.

As a result, in recent times when domestically produced edible oil faced little competition from imported oil, copra and edible oil production remained depressed, with many private growers abandoning copra production in favour of selling dried nuts which have been fetching a price of 100 dollars per bag of 100 nuts.

At present only the nationally-owned Hope Estate is producing copra. In addition, Demerara Oil Mills and Maharaja Oil Mills, both privately owned, have temporarily ceased operations leaving only the National Oil Factory at Farm functioning.

This drastic cutback in copra production further compounded the shortage of edible oil on the domestic market which sprang from government's decision to

restrict the importation of edible oil. Edible oil is now being retailed on the blackmarket for as much as 15 dollars per pint.

Although the new price for edible oil would be lower than the current black-market price for crude coconut oil, it is considered an economic price which takes into account the real cost of production.

Guyana imported as much as 70 to 80 per cent of its edible oil requirements until last year when deteriorating foreign exchange conditions forced government to restrict the importation of edible oil. Only a small amount of coconut oil is now imported under the Caribbean Community (Caricom) Oils and Fats Agreement.

While it was known that the decision to restrict edible oil importation would result in shortage, government had hoped that the non-importation of edible oil would induce local copra producers to invest in the development of their enterprises.

The new prices for copra are seen as a further incentive to farmers and copra producers.

In addition, Vice President, Production, Hamilton Green is expected to meet with coconut farmers and copra producers shortly to further discuss their role in the development of the national edible oil industry.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture says it will continue pursuing its programme for the rehabilitation of the national coconut industry as well as its programme for the production of edible oil from such sources as rice bran, the African Oil Palm, Cotton Seed and wild nuts.

Impact on Industry

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Jun 83 p 3

[Text]

A top executive of a local oil mill feels that the increase in the price of copra will not have a significant effect on the copra industry and the oil mills.

He said yesterday that it is a fallacy to believe that a rise in the price of copra will make people produce more copra. He said that for this move to be effective, a price control must also be placed on coconuts; or the practice of producing crude coconut oil from dry coconuts must be banned by government.

He noted that coconut growers do not produce copra but fix high prices for the dry coconuts. He explained that there is still not much incentive to produce copra for refined oil in preference to making crude oil from dry nuts, because these nuts are sold at \$900 for 1 000 and three and one-third nuts are needed to make one pound of copra. The crude oil is made directly from dry nuts, and is now being sold at a very high price on the blackmarket.

Meanwhile, moves started last year by the

Ministry of Agriculture to establish effective regional Coconut Producers' Associations and a National Coconut Authority to look into the interests of the industry have slowed down.

It was planned to have members from the regional bodies form a steering committee which would set up the national authority. But an official of the Ministry of Agriculture explained that the steering committee has not been formed because regional bodies are not functioning well.

GOVERNMENT PLANS INCENTIVES, LOWER COSTS FOR GOLD MINERS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Jun 83 pp 1, 5

[Text] ..GOLD miners are shortly to benefit from incentives and further government assistance aimed at increasing gold output and reducing production costs.

This follows recent increases by the Guyana Gold Board with respect to the price paid for raw burnt gold. A spokesman for the Energy and Mines Ministry said yesterday that government was aware of the high cost of spares, food and other inputs necessary for gold production, and as a result, is looking at ways in which it could render assistance to miners.

The spokesman hinted that there might be a further increase in the price paid for raw burnt gold sold to the Board. It is understood that Cabinet is now looking at proposals, submitted by the Ministry, which could bring about a significant reduction in the cost of spares for mining equipment.

Since few spares for dredging equipment are manufactured here, miners have been forced to pay high prices for parts from middlemen, and traders. The prices are particularly out of the reach of small operators.

Currently weather conditions have greatly curtailed mining operations in the main mining areas, the Mazaruni, Cuyuni and Potaro.

"Although any increase by government will still fall below the unofficial price, Government has the welfare of the miners at heart," the spokesman said.

CSO: 3298/729

BRIEFS

VISA RACKET--THE police in Berbice yesterday discovered a visa racket, and a twenty-three-year-old man from Georgetown was arrested and charged with obtaining money by false pretences. Fazil Alli Kumar, of Alexander Village, Georgetown, is accused of obtaining by false pretences the sum of \$1 000 from Hamsad Alli by pretending to be able to get him a visa for the United States. Kumar appeared before a Corentyne Magistrate yesterday and was refused bail. Meanwhile, the police are investigating the discovery of 51 passports in the possession of a man who is expected to be charged shortly. And Sheik Mohamed Yassim of Ogle, who was charged with forging a Guyana passport was yesterday fined \$500 after he pleaded guilty. [Georgetown CHRONICLE in English 17 Jun 83 p 4]

HARASSMENT OF EDITOR--CATHOLIC STANDARD Editor, Fr. Andrew Morrison was once again searched at Timehri Airport on leaving the country to attend a seminar for Caribbean journalists in Puerto Rico. This harassment is now routine for him and others connected with the paper, as their names are on a card index kept at the airport of persons to be searched on entering or leaving the country. When the officer attempted to retain a private document that was being taken out, the editor protested strongly and demanded a receipt. The officer instead went off to telephone Georgetown and after a considerable delay returned and handed back the document. When it was pointed out that the reading of private papers was a violation of the right to privacy, guaranteed by the Constitution, one officer replied that many things were done against the Constitution. The officer asked why a receipt was needed and on being told in order to take steps, he replied, "Careful you don't fall". [Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 5 Jun 83 p 1]

BARTER TRADE ENCOURAGED--Georgetown, Guyana, Wednesday (CANA)--The Guyana Government is encouraging barter trade as one means of coping with the acute foreign exchange situation. The Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance has sent an invitation to the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) and the Guyana Manufacturers Association (GMA) urging them to examine the types of products with counter trade potential. An official of the ministry said the shortage of foreign exchange at this period paves the way for the barter of locally-produced goods for a number of essential items which cannot be produced in Guyana. The official said items such as agricultural equipment, machinery, spare parts, steel, fertilizers, cloth and semi-processed goods can be imported through counter trade arrangements. [Text] [FLO61851 Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 30 Jun 83 p 3]

CUBAN OFFICIALS VISIT--Georgetown, Guyana, 29 Jun (CANA)--Two Cuban officials left Guyana this week after holding preliminary discussions here aimed at formulating a bilateral agreement between the two countries covering cooperation in the fields of printing and publishing, the government-owned CHRONICLE newspaper reported. The Cubans, Romuldo Santo and Modesto Gonzalez had an in-depth look at the printing facilities here and discussed the possibility of Cuba assisting the local industry in the fields of training management and production of texts. "The possibility of Guyana assisting the Cuban printing and publishing industry in editorial and other works, was also examined," the CHRONICLE said. The two sides discussed as well the possibility of setting up a paper factory here in order to supply materials for the local industry. The visit was a follow-up to the meeting in Georgetown this year of the Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2315 GMT 29 Jun 83 FL]

CSO: 3298/1287

PAPER CRITICIZES SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT, U.S. POLICY

Port-au-Prince LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR in French 4-10 Jun 83 p 22

[Article by Cassandre Kalim: "Blood in Central America"]

[Text] The assassination in the very heart of San Salvador of Commander Albert Schaufelberger, one of the American attaches assigned to the United States Embassy, has made the Salvadoran political panorama even more tense. The murder, claimed by FPLN (Popular Front for National Liberation) of El Salvador, one of the components of the Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation, shows that the forces in opposition to the regime of Alvaro Magana are not too far from final victory, since the (armed) struggle, extending beyond the borders, has reached the capital and is now creating victims in the very camp of government supporters.

In order to confront the resistance of the people, the military-fascist dictatorship of El Salvador appealed to the army, which went into the streets and prompted a frenzied repression. Villages inhumely bombarded by the Salvadoran army and homes ransacked by extreme right-wing groups supported by the national guard itself are the daily lot of a desperate struggle between governmental forces and the forces of change.

Analysis of the Salvadoran case—of the resistance of a people--undertaken since the interventions by the army and the retorts by the Farbundo Marti Front, shows that the Magana regime is struggling in a sea of difficulties to the point that peace, as Latin American governments define it, is not possible in El Salvador. The popular discontent is beginning to reach countries like Peru. Even Costa Rica, that traditional oasis of peace, is contaminated by the revolutionary epidemic. Guatamala, as well, is not sheltered from this contagion. Profoundly marked by violence, it has also entered this infernal spiral.

Rallying Cry

"Tyrants and bureaucrats of Central America, unite!" This rallying cry precisely reflects the delirious attitude of states that are shamelessly arming Central American executioners against their people. For Uncle Sam, the priority of priorities is not of an economic but a military nature. As proof, 2500 Salvadoran soldiers are soon to undergo an intensive anti-guerrilla training on a base to be established in Honduras.

However, the intimidation already described can no longer resolve the crying inequalities, and those who govern, knowing it and feeling it daily, have no other cards to play but to show their government's true face. In a general way, Latin American society is more divided than ever, not on the level of sharp polarization, which sets the army face to face against the popular masses, but at the level of very precise economic oppositions between the people (workers, peasants, subproletarians, lower middle classes, etc.) and pressure groups who stand in the shadow of the soldiers' rifles. The Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Peruvian, etc. peoples know perfectly well who is massacring their sons and pillaging their reserves, and that is why they are opposing repression with a fierce resistance. The carnage perpetrated by the national guard cannot put an end to this resistance. This method will never provide the solution. On the contrary, the oppositions are all the more intensified.

To the extent that these countries' current economic landscape is the result of numerous years of exploitation, extortion, and the pillaging of the goods of those who oppose these political regimes, and to the extent that these masses of people are always the main victims, the solution to the problems of these republics is no longer the domain of the ruling political classes. It is the domain of the people, and, as such, is brought onto the political scene. It is within this framework that we must understand the Farabundo movement and the physical elimination of the American high officer. It is within this framework as well that we must grasp the vain efforts of the national guard.

The hot reality of the Latin American situation should always remind us that the extent of repression is in proportion to this sub-continent. Historically, the intervention of the Latin American state has always taken brutal forms.

In Santo Domingo: On June 14, 1963, Reid Cabral drowns groups that are in opposition to the Movement in a bloodbath.

Colombia, 1964: The region of Marquetalia is surrounded by the infantry and air force. Final result: hundreds of peasants killed.

Brazil, 1978: A group of peasants who had been established for several generations on the latifundia, is murdered by ultra-right-wing elements, defenders of the governmental interests of the time. These types of intervention, totally compatible with the identity of Latin American political power, are more and more institutionalized within the framework of the liberal bourgeois democracy. They are returning once more to a general process of legitimization. The state apparatus articulate an ideology which identifies it to the general citizenry. It is national security, that old reason, revised and reinforced. National security, according to the bourgeois "democrats" in power in America, is not to let the rampart, raised at great expense to hold back the rise of the masses, fall.

Concerning this question, an American politologue is said to have declared authoritatively: "Democracy is for us, but when you give bathtubs to those people, they put their coal in them."

RNP SUBMITS SEPTEMBER ELECTORAL CENSUS PLAN TO TNE

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 11 Jun 83 p 26

[Text] The work of issuing new cards to the people of Honduras will begin as of 1 September in the Central District, according to the document describing the Operations Plan for the period of 1983-1985, submitted by the RNP (National Register of Persons) to the TNE (National Board of Elections).

RNP director Orlando Iriarte stated that the expenditure budget, whose amount has not been established, as well as personnel organization and management manuals were submitted. Iriarte commented that the Operations Plan implies a professional, technical, and democratic concept with a scientific character developed by the RNP as well as the methods, forms, and procedures to be used in the task of reorganizing the Civil Register whose foundations differ from the current one.

1985 Census

"We drafted this plan in terms of its basic measures and its executive agencies, in terms of the infrastructure we need throughout the country," he pointed out, "and also in accordance with the support which will have to be given from the viewpoint of the government, the political parties, the TNE, and various social sectors throughout the country."

In this fashion, the RNP proposes "among other things, to have ready, by May 1985, the election census for future elections for different types of government levels which we have to hold in the country," Iriarte said.

"This is a tremendous task, a complex and even polemical task because of its nature," he commented. "But we are sure that, with the visual presentation of the plan and with the necessary support, we will do the job in the end."

Budget

He explained that the amount of the budget is as yet unknown because the pertinent documents are still being analyzed by the RNP and the TNE and variations could arise in this process.

"Nevertheless," he added, "the amount allocated is not in line with the exaggerated amounts which sources unknown to the Register have been mentioning."

Limitations

Iriarte pointed out that the RNP project is facing two basic limitations; the first one is the condition of the Civil Register books, many of which, even entire volumes, have been misplaced; this is why there are very many people in the country who are not registered.

"Due to this loss of books, we had to figure out suitable mechanisms for making sure that the people, who are not properly identified, may get their identification; this gives us an idea of the magnitude of the job we have to do," he noted.

The other trouble spot is the indoctrination of the population so that they will get the proper documents because earlier experiences showed that the people of Honduras do this sort of thing only at the very last moment.

Double Identification Card Issue

He added that the basic objective of the RNP is to make sure that persons who provide documentation and get identity cards will be real citizens and for that purpose they are going to have to be very careful so that people will not get two identity cards.

"If this is not done properly, it might happen that cards will be issued to foreigners some of whom of course involve no risk whereas others are a risk to the country and to national security. Coordinating this series of actions with honesty, security, ability, and a modern approach, implied in an undertaking of this kind, is a highly complex job but we are ready to tackle it," he maintained.

Photography Work

For the reasons given above, the final determination as to who will do the photography work has been postponed until July or August.

The Register has directed that the provisions established by the law in the matter of photography be complied with, that is, regarding the size and quality of the photos since this is important because it has to do with reliability of the photo and, in the final analysis, it determines the correctness of the identity card.

This requirement will be met on the domestic level in Honduras but that does not mean that we might not seek a certain type of advice from an international company, he remarked.

Job Sources

The development of the entire identification card issue process will require the employment of several hundred of persons, both technicians and field

personnel; it is believed that 283 registration offices will be set up throughout the land to do the job by the required deadline.

Computer equipment, different from the type used earlier, will also be used because current requirements are different and call for more secure and reliable equipment, more complex and faster-working equipment to meet the target.

Iriarte said that, after the start of the card issuing effort in the Central District, the program will then be gradually extended to the remaining cities in Honduras.

5058

CSO: 3248/979

CAPITAL'S RAPID GROWTH SEEN AS PROBLEM

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 17 Jun 83 pp 5, 47

[Article by Juan Ramon Martinez: "Tegucigalpa--The Tragedy of Urban Growth"]

[Text] Tegucigalpa in an extraordinarily sharp fashion expresses the uncontrollable urban growth crisis which the country is suffering through. While, in most of the developed countries, industrialization has been combined with a process of shifting the population from the rural areas to the cities, urban growth in the underdeveloped countries--as in the case of Honduras--has manifested itself in an independent way and the growth of the cities, rather than acting as a manpower increasing factor, only helps to create problems, complicate the requirements for new services, and, in a word, create the basic conditions for social explosion.

According to statistical data, Tegucigalpa in 1950 had 90,600 inhabitants. Those were the good old days of the "city of neighborhoods." In 1970, Tegucigalpa had 232,200 inhabitants and by 1980 the figure was 502,500; this means that the total population had doubled in 11 years. Among other problems, this population growth led to a disproportional increase in the cost of public utilities, such as water, sewers, light, recreation areas, hospitals, schools, universities, plus an increase in the number of unemployed.

Normally, Honduran government officials have little time to analyze and extract, from the daily events, an x-ray which would make it possible to predict future situations. This is why Tegucigalpa has grown irregularly, without anybody thinking of the capacity of its inhabitants to solve the problems which this irregularity brings with itself. There was no continuity between what was done by one mayor and the next one after him. Each mayor wanted to get everybody to believe that his work in the office of the mayor was an opportunity for getting rich and occupying a place in the country's political history--not a serious commitment to the future of the most important city in Honduras.

Rather recently, however, Elvin Santos, the city's mayor, surprised all of us by outlining to us the catastrophic disaster of Tegucigalpa's growth and the government's inability to cope with a phenomenon which is not only typical of the city he runs but which happens to be the epicenter--if you will--of social conflict in Honduras. The attitude of Mayor Santos seemed highly worthwhile

to me as he prepared to risk the future of his political career; he dared point out the lack of interest and cooperation among high government officials regarding the problems of Tegucigalpa.

Through his statements, Santos forced me to go looking for documents, to analyze data, and to think of solutions to contribute to the effort which he launched so that we may all live in this city, so that we may become aware of its problems, and so that we may make a serious effort to help in solving the problems which, if they are not taken care of in time, will cause a crisis in the country's principal city which will mark the beginning of the great conflict that will develop in Honduran society.

We must all keep in mind that the problems of Tegucigalpa are the expression of the problems of Honduras. The existence of an exhausted economic model, the absence of definite development policies which can be applied to the situation of Honduras, the lack of credibility on the part of the country's institutions, the inability of the private elites to create jobs, and the dependent nature of the country's economy--these are expressed by irregular urban growth and by the tremendous spread of poverty and the helplessness of the majority of the city's inhabitants.

We must avoid the idea that the problem is caused by outside factors. There is no lack of those who want to say that those of us who live in the city must prevent the peasants from leaving their inherited land and, what is even worse, we must prevent them from coming, with their poverty and their ambition for prosperity, to settle down in the capital city, depriving us of what apparently belongs to us. That type of thinking is irregular because it is not the peasant who comes to the city but rather because it is the rural areas--with its unpleasant conditions--which drive the peasants out, toward the urban centers. In other words, the irregular urban growth problems which Tegucigalpa experiences cannot be tackled without going after the overall problem of the rural sector.

The rural sector must be given new impetus if we want to prevent peasant expulsion through an accelerated process of agrarian reform which, in addition to frightening away those who attack the properties of the farmers, will help establish capitalist enterprises that moreover will make use of available resources, providing jobs and thus promoting prosperity so that the people in the rural areas will not have to come to the city in search of a better way of life. Government services must be decentralized. For example, we must not keep the Ministry of Natural Resources in Tegucigalpa; nor should the Secretariat of Communications be stationed in the capital. By decentralizing government agencies in terms of space, we will be able to create the foundations so that power will again assume a local character, making it unnecessary for a person to go after recommendations and a permit in the capital city itself merely to get a job as a janitor with the Lepaera board of elections.

Finally, we must discard the belief that the peasants live worse in Tegucigalpa than in the rural communities from which they were expelled. For many years there has been simple nostalgia for the tranquility and happiness of the rural

areas and that simply is not so. The Honduran rural areas are tough and unpleasant and full of irregularities--many times created by the authorities themselves--which in the end force the peasant to settle in the city where, after 10 years, he manages to raise his living standard.

Elvin Santos has made us think. What is needed now is for all of us to seek solutions. That is the price of tranquility; otherwise, we will be beating each other up here for water, for space in parks, and for an opportunity to get a decent job so that we can eat three square meals a day. Tegucigalpa, D.C., June 1983.

5058

CSO: 3248/979

ANACA CALLS FOR AGRARIAN REFORM LEGISLATION

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 8 Jun 83 pp 1, 6

[Article by Sara Lovera and Mario Garcia Sordo]

[Text] Yesterday, in the establishment of the National Peasant Alliance (ANACA), the fact that the application of the agrarian counterreform resulted in persistent rural problems was denounced, and therefore the signatory organizations CNC [National Peasant Confederation], CCI [Independent Peasants Central Organization], UGOCM [General Union of Workers and Peasants of Mexico] and CAM [Mexican Agrarian Council] considered urgent the achievement of integrated rural development that would lead to the appropriation of the means of production by the working classes.

In the auditorium of the FSTSE [Trade Unions Federation of Government Workers], the constitutive act of the new organization was read. It provides for a profound revision of agrarian legislation, the cancellation of the right of aid to the landholders, modification of the cooperatives law, revisions to the Federal Agrarian Reform Law and of the limits of small property, as well as the elimination of the large landed estate in Mexico.

Victor Cervera Pacheco, CNC secretary general, defined the purposes of the new organization in this way: "to fill tactical and strategic vacuum in rural areas, widened by the polarization of the rural organizations; to renew the revolutionary positions and the political arenas from which the rural worker was displaced; and to strengthen the alliance with the revolutionary state."

He noted that "the ANACA is not seeking to take away autonomy or to diminish militancy and certainly it is not trying to establish a specious political apparatus serving purely political aspirations, nullifying and manipulating the goals of peasants demands."

In turn, CCI leader Alfonso Garzon Santibanez indicated that the economic crisis being experienced by the country was the factor that "has caused us to unite" to face rural problems with firmness and unity.

He noted that the nation is facing grave problems, including threats of a general strike, the work suspensions in the universities and the challenge of private initiatives to the legally constituted government, as well as provocation by the opposition parties, especially National Action, which "forces us to organize ourselves."

After mentioning the difficult agricultural situation and the U.S. blockade of 56 products that Mexico exports, Garzon stated that now the fundamental demand in national agriculture is for the parceling out of agrarian lands, and therefore the ANACA is proposing as the fundamental and primary objective doing away with public and private landed estates, thus satisfying the needs of 3 million peasants without violating any rights.

He then indicated that in setting the guaranteed prices for agriculture products, "there will not be a repetition" of this year's situation, because with greater negotiating strength he will seek differential prices according to production systems (natural rainfall, irrigation and pumping) and at a regional level.

Likewise UGOCM leader Juan Rodriguez Gonzalez stated that with the Pact of Ocampo there was already an attempt to achieve peasant unity, "which did not have the desired result."

Therefore, now "the doors were open" to smaller organizations with various ideological aspects, but keeping in mind that it has to do with a lasting unity that is opposed by business and commerce, he added.

He explained that the experience of the Pact of Ocampo was based on the parceling out of the landed estates in the north of the country. "With the pact," he said, "things were hot in Sonora and it was the Business Council and the merchants who opposed peasant organization."

He therefore made clear that in view of the attempts at destabilization by Rightwing groups, the ANACA signatory organizations propose to defend the national customs and advance toward democratic change.

For his part, Humberto Serrano Perez, CAM representative, pointed out that the indiscriminate unity of Mexico's peasants "will bring about a new image of the peasant struggle." He added: "we do not want happy cows and sad peasants; the land is for the peasants and we can do without the cows."

After exhorting his followers not to fall asleep during the constitutive ceremony of the ANACA, he noted that it is now absolutely necessary to regain the presidential authority in the land distribution, thus preventing counterrevolutionary judges from delaying it. "And slapdash agrarian policy is no longer possible," he added.

In turn, Cervera Pacheco assured that with the parceling out of the lands "the hope of the peasants was parcelled out along with that of their organizations. The dispersion of fronts in the rural struggle was reflected in the process of agrarian reform, its deviations and the power and corruption of an exasperating bureaucracy."

He added that what was seen was "the brutal enrichment and simulated monopolization of peasant lands by an influential and transnational managing elite."

Thus, he stated that "if we have the same problems, face the same obstacles, are being challenged by the same enemies and seek the same answers, then the rural divisions are inexplicable."

Later on, he emphasized that the ANACA members will not defend the interests of capital or the transnationals "but of Mexican peasants and therefore the doors of our union are open to the participation, responsibility and creative action of all the organizations that have demonstrated their calling in the peasant struggle."

Reactions of the Parties

The PST [Socialist Workers Party], the PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party] and the PPS [Popular Socialist Party] "hailed" the creation of the ANACA, considering that it is the way to put an end to the fracturing of the rural struggle and the real possibility of reviving in a coordinated manner, with unofficial central organizations, a series of dispersed and directionless demands.

Meanwhile, the United Socialist Party of Mexico, through Representative Florentino Jaimes, expressed its reservations and "placed in doubt the success" of the alliance's position. He said that it may be that at the heart of the initiative to form an alliance are interests of leaders who traditionally have yoked the peasants to governmental interests.

For his part, Gonzalo Altamirano Dimas, spokesman for National Action, commented that this new organization is nothing more than the "pigeonholing" of already known organizations, when what one should provide is freedom and support to rural production.

He added that it has to do with populist intents, similar to those of the time of Luis Echeverria, who succeeded only in creating more tension in rural areas.

Antonio Cadena from the PST announced that the National Union of Agricultural Workers, in agreement with his party, will ask immediately to join the alliance. Ulises Martinez, PRT spokesman, stated that there is now a possibility that uncontrolled sectors active in the rural areas may join, and that is the result of the pressure in the agrarian bases. "If those called are realists," commented the spokesman, the ejidos and communities could be democratized, as is being done by the National Coordinating Board for the Ayala Plan, "which could join the alliance."

Finally, Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, PPS Spokesman, commented that with this alliance it will be easier to make change to come even closer to "the real possibility of abolishing the agrarian aid."

9746

CSO: 3248/947

FDN LEADER EDGAR CHAMORRO INTERVIEWED ON FIGHTING

PA221715 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 0414 GMT 22 Jun 83

[Interview with Edgar Chamorro Coronel, a leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, on 21 June; place not given, questioner unidentified--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is the current situation in Nicaragua?

[Answer] The Nicaraguan people are enthusiastic. I would say that the insurrection is general. We have proof of this in Matagalpa, Boaco, Ocotal, near Esteli, and particularly in Nueva Segovia and Jinotega departments, closer to the Honduran border. On the Atlantic coast, the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama tribes have waged great battles. They have carried out incursions all the way up the Bonanza mines. They staged an incredible action in the area of La Tronquera, where a large number of Sandinists were killed. Thus, all over the country--not just in the central, northern and Atlantic regions, but in the south as well--there are heroic Nicaraguans fighting Marxism-Leninism. We are entering what I would describe as the final phase. It is final because it is our winter offensive, which could have historic repercussions. It could be the beginning of the end for the Managua Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism.

[Question] From what social sectors do FDN combatants come?

[Answer] Eighty percent are peasants. The Sandinist garrisons that have needed food have forced the peasants to give them their food. The peasants resent the fact that they are forced to take part in the war as militias, as cannon fodder. They resent the fact that they cannot worship God, that they cannot be religious and that they are forced to accept a doctrine that is completely alien to the Nicaraguan mind. In short, the Nicaraguan peasants have never supported Marxist-Leninist Sandinism, which they view as an instrument of destruction and death. They make up most of our force.

About 17 percent of our forces are militiamen, some of whom are also peasants. When they realize that they are being used, they join the FDN. The rest are members of the Nicaraguan National Guard. They are very capable commandos, trained to command troops. They form a very small percentage, about 2 1/2 to 3 percent.

[Question] Are there non-Nicaraguans fighting alongside the FDN?

[Answer] We have had many offers, but we have always turned them down. Only Nicaraguans are engaged in this struggle. Not only our friends in neighboring countries but those of states that are farther north, specifically Cubans, and people who are already organized have offered their support. We have thanked them but we think that they can undertake another kind of task, such as political and diplomatic work, fund-raising for the refugees or the combatants' families, or press campaigns to create a favorable atmosphere for our cause.

[Question] We understand that the FDN has close to 10,000 combatants. Is there any chance that this number will increase? What problems are you facing in increasing the number of Nicaraguans who choose to fight with you?

[Answer] The FDN has the potential ability to double or even triple its forces in 1 to 3 months. This is because the Nicaraguan people are enthusiastic, and have asked for weapons. We have seen this in many villages, small towns and cities. They have asked us not to leave them. All of them have asked that we take them with us. We have repeatedly had to deal with the heartbreaking experience of watching entire villages implore us not to leave them because they want to join us. They have begged us to give them weapons. This is really not possible. We are undertaking efforts with people who support our cause and with some governments to see if we can obtain the necessary aid, so we can give weapons to all those who want to fight alongside our more trained commando groups.

[Question] How could the FDN's victory be prevented by the presence of thousands of Cubans, especially a Cuban general who directed military operations in Angola and who, according to the U.S. Government, is now in Nicaragua?

[Answer] Yes, I understand that this is Ochoa Sanchez, a commander who was involved in Angola in 1975-1976 and in Ethiopia. He increased the number of Cuban troops in Angola to 25,000 men. It is very unfortunate that the Nicaraguan Sandinists have had to resort to such an international communist personality to direct their war. I personally regret this. It is hard to believe, for I still have a lot of faith in the Nicaraguans. It is humiliating that there aren't any Nicaraguans capable of directing this war and that they instead must resort to a Cuban with such a notorious record in Africa.

[Question] U.S. Government spokesmen have said that if the FDN liberates part of Nicaragua's territory and maintains its positions, they would be willing to recognize you as the authentic government of the Nicaraguans. Can the FDN liberate part of Nicaragua's territory or is your objective the liberation of the entire territory?

[Answer] Not only is it capable of doing so, but it has already done so, in fact. In recent weeks, we have maintained a strip of national territory in El Porvenir. We raised the Nicaraguan flag with the FDN acronym. We have also occupied many areas of Nueva Segovia, Jinotega, and near Ocotal. However,

we feel that this issue of recognition as a government in exile should be left for later. We believe that the most important thing now is to stage an insurrection by all Nicaraguans, to show that all Nicaraguans are united. We don't yet need to resort to foreign (?recognition) and aid, because we don't necessarily want to resort to other peoples or countries until we find that it is absolutely essential or until we can guarantee that we can carry out the final offensive in the Pacific region. In the final phase, once a general insurrection is achieved, it is important that the OAS or neighboring countries recognize us and give us support, so that we can immediately end all Cuban and Soviet presence in Nicaragua with a larger military force. In this way, we can establish a blockade of Nicaragua to prevent the arrival of supplies from Cuba, which receives them in turn from the USSR.

[Question] The Sandinists constantly accuse the Honduran Government of harboring FDN camps in its territory. Where do you really train your combatants?

[Answer] Our combatants are trained on the march. The men and women who join our force do not have time to undergo rigorous training. They are given their rifle, boots, and the uniforms that we can provide and they begin their training in action. We originally had to have some bases, some of them close to the border but all in Nicaraguan territory, where we trained some small units, 30 to 50 men, who subsequently trained the commando groups on the march. In the war we are waging we have not needed specialized training because this is a war of popular insurrection and in such a war the most important thing is morale. We don't have to instill morale in our commandos; they already have it. It comes from their blood, from the humiliation of seeing Nicaragua in the hands of Marxist-Leninists, from personal motives, because their property has been confiscated or some of their relatives have been imprisoned or killed by the Sandinists.

[Question] What specific aid is the FDN receiving from the Reagan government? It is said that you have been given \$19 million for operations in Nicaraguan territory. Is this true?

[Answer] I know what the U.S. press, the WASHINGTON POST and other newspapers, have said. You also know that there is a debate in the United States over this. There is what is called covert aid. If it is covert, it should remain as such. That aid is to prevent the arms traffic and to facilitate the democratization of Nicaragua and the Central American area. I understand that this debate will begin again after September and that the funds are approved until September. This is more of an internal problem affecting the U.S. administration and congress.

[Question] What would the FDN's position be in case a Nicaraguan-Honduran conflict develops?

[Answer] The FDN hopes that such a conflict will not take place. Knowing the Sandinist mentality, it would be an act of final desperation. I don't think that the Sandinists would attack a fraternal people like the Hondurans, who have worked hard to achieve their sovereign and independent republic and who would defend themselves with full honor and dignity. I don't think

that they would dare to commit such a political mistake and such an act of international aggression. They would do so only as a desperate act, to provoke a kind of continuity, what I would describe as a Sandinism without Sandino, a Sandinism without the nine commanders. I see this as possible, in an effort to save some structures and positions. Through such a desperate act they would want to give the world the idea that the problem was not that the Sandinist revolution failed but that it was brought down from abroad. These are very proud and vain people, who will find it hard to accept the failure of a revolution that could have been a new dawn instead of the nightmare it has become. They have to blame neighboring countries and Yankee imperialism rather than themselves for this nightmare. In other words, we must be alert, in case they choose to play this card. I hope that they will not. The FDN position is to prevent this from occurring. If the Sandinists fight Honduras, we will be fighting the Sandinists.

CSO: 3248/1059

BRIEFS

ITALIAN SOLIDARITY GROUP--A meeting was held yesterday between the first contingent of the Italian-Nicaraguan Solidarity Group and representatives of the mass organizations with which they will carry out four rural projects. The solidarity group will finance projects that include a child care center in Corinto and several schools. [Summary] [PA081710 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Jul 83 PA]

IDB LOAN--Nicaragua today obtained an IDB loan for \$500,000. These funds will be used in the carpentry sector. [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 7 Jul 83 PA]

CHILDREN'S GROUP TO CUBA--Fifteen Sandinist Children's Association members traveled to Cuba yesterday in response to an invitation from the Cuban Jose Marti Pioneers Organization. The group will be in Cuba for 30 days to take part in recreational activities and to exchange cultural experiences. A member of the group said that the children are carrying a message of friendship and solidarity to all the world's children who are fighting for their fatherland, and at the same time they will denounce Yankee imperialist attacks on Nicaragua. [Summary] [PA150211 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 Jul 83 PA]

STUDENTS RETURN FROM CUBA--Forty Nicaraguan scholarship students who studied various fields in the fishing sector in Cuba will return to Managua tomorrow after 3 years of classes in Cuba. The newly graduated marine biologists and fishing technicians will put into practice in Nicaraguan production centers the knowledge they obtained in Cuba. [Summary] [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Jul 83 PA]

COFFEE EXPORTS--The Nicaraguan Coffee Enterprise, ENCAFE, as part of a sales commitment with Algeria, has shipped to that country 5,000 metric tons of coffee from the 1983-1984 harvest. In addition, preparations are being made to ship 30,000 quintals to Czechoslovakia, 500 metric tons to Bulgaria, and 3,727 metric tons to Cuba, the latter as part of a trade agreement with that country. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jul 83 PA]

WOMEN'S BATTALION DEPARTURE--Leon--The Veronica Lacayo Battalion, which is composed of women, will be leaving for some part of the country in the next few days. They are members of the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Nicaraguan Women's Association. This is the second time that this battalion has been deployed. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 5 Jul 83 PA]

USSR FERTILIZER MATERIALS DONATION--The USSR has donated raw materials to Nicaragua for making fertilizer. The donation will enable enough fertilizer to be produced to cover the national needs for the 1983 and 1984 harvests. [PA220058 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Jun 83 p 5 PA]

NEW DEPUTY MINISTER--Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, swore in Mario Flores Fonseca as new deputy construction minister at the Government Palace on 10 June. [Summary] [PA220717 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 14 Jun 83 p 6 PA]

AUSTRIAN CREDIT LINE -- Belgrade, June [no day given] (IPS)--Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez has announced in this capital that Austria will open a \$10-million credit line for Nicaragua to buy equipment, spare parts, and raw materials. Martinez told IPS that the Austrian credit line will be agreed to in the next few weeks. [Summary] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Jun 83 p 10 PA]

NEW BATTALION--Boaco--The women of Boaco, Chontales, and Central Zelaya will greet the fourth anniversary of the revolution with the creation of a battalion made up of companeras of the region. This battalion will be named after Maritza Quezada. [Summary] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Jun 83 p 8 PA]

REPRESENTATIVE TO PRAGUE--Commander Doris Tijerino is off to Prague, Czechoslovakia to take part in the World Assembly for Peace and Life and Against Nuclear War, to be held between 21 and 26 June. Tijerino will also be appointed vice president of the World Peace Council. [Excerpt] [PA231849 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Jun 83 p 5 PA]

FRENCH FLOUR DONATION--An agreement was recently signed in Paris, France by which the French Government donates 7,300 tons of flour to Nicaragua. The agreement was signed by Nicaraguan Ambassador Alejandro Serrano. [Excerpt] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Jun 83 p 14 PA]

CUBAN RESEARCH SHIP--The Cuban ship "Rio Jibacoa" arrived yesterday at the port of Corinto with a crew of 98. It will be in Nicaragua Pacific waters for a month to study the country's fishing resources as part of an agreement signed by the Fishery Ministries of Nicaragua and Cuba. [Summary] [PA232355 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jun 83 PA]

RETURN OF BATTALION--Relatives and friends of the members of Battalion 30-72 welcomed the returning 19 July Sandinist Youth battalion at the Roger de Chan Arguello Community Center this last weekend. The battalion, which has been fighting the counterrevolutionaries in the northern and southern border areas, had suffered eight casualties. [Summary] [PA211511 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jun 83 PA]

SOVIET MEDICAL AID--The Soviet-Nicaraguan Friendship Field Hospital, whose personnel are mostly Soviet, has given medical assistance to 65,000 Nicaraguans in its first year of service. The field hospital, located in the city of Chinandega, was installed on the Nicaraguan Government's request as a result of last year's May floods. The Soviet Government, in view of the successful work carried out by the volunteer doctors, has decided to extend the field hospital's operations for another year. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jun 83 PA]

DONATION FROM NETHERLANDS--Notes of understanding have been exchanged between Edmundo Jarquin, director of the International Reconstruction Fund, and Netherlands Ambassador in Nicaragua Jan Willem Bertens in connection with a loan for 25 million florins that will be used to finance several projects dealing with the coastal protection of the port of Corinto and with the overall rural development of Jalapa Valley. [Text] [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Jun 83 PA]

CSO: 3248/1060

CUBAN POET VALLADARES MEETS WITH PAREDES

PA110027 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Jul 83 pp A1, A16

[Text] Panama City (ANSA)--The visit made to Panama by Cuban poet and dissident Armando Valladares has apparently underscored the Panamanian Government's intention of breaking diplomatic relations with Cuba and Nicaragua. This was inferred today from the meeting between the poet and Brigadier General Ruben Dario Paredes, commander in chief of the nation's armed forces.

Valladares, before leaving for Miami yesterday, was visited twice by Paredes, who threatened 2 weeks ago that Panama might break relations with Cuba and Nicaragua "if they do not stop their belligerent attitude in the tense Central American area."

When Paredes and Valladares were shaking hands in the hotel room where the poet was staying, Valladares said, "General, the Cuban ambassador and Fidel are going to be very upset about this picture." Paredes' reply was, "I hope so [espero que si]."

Valladares, who was the Cuban Government's political prisoner for 22 years, was in Panama for 3 days, during which he accused the Castro government of violating human rights. He made these accusations before students, workers and politicians.

The Committee for Democracy in Panama, Nicaragua, and Central America, led by Assemblywoman Omaira Correa, invited Valladares to visit Panama. Earlier, at the outset of this year, Correa had claimed that Cuba and Nicaragua are intervening in Panama's domestic affairs.

Valladares said yesterday that the Cuban Embassy in Panama, headed by Ambassador Miguel Brugueras, is Fidel Castro's main center for destabilizing Latin America.

Valladares said, "The Cuban Embassy in Panama is Castro's main distribution point for subversion, espionage and for funnelling weapons to Latin America."

Valladares, who lives in Madrid, left yesterday for Miami and Washington, where he will be honored by Jeanne Kirkpatrick, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

CSO: 3248/1043

LETTER TO MATUTINO WARNS OF THREAT TO PAREDES

PA030457 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 28 Jun 83 p 8-a

[Letter from Liberal Party member Julio M. Aldrete to MATUTINO Director Rolando Trelles, dated 24 June 1983]

[Text] Dear Director and Friend:

The aim of the Christian Democratic Party's [PDC] owners is not simply to divide the Liberal Party--as our journalist friend Mario J. de Obaldia has said--through accusations against true leaders in this country such as David Samudio, who is and will continue to be a real leader. These "Christians" are carrying out a systematic campaign of defamation and insult against any person they think will support Panamanian citizen Ruben Dario Paredes' presidential candidacy. We should not be surprised that this campaign even considers Mr Ruben Dario Paredes' physical annihilation if they fail to stop his presidential candidacy.

These "democrats" who attempt to deny citizen Ruben Dario Paredes the hope of achieving the presidency launched an acrimonious attack on Msgr McGrath for having met with General Paredes and members of the National Guard Staff during the preparation for Pope John Paul's visit to our country. They traveled to Europe expressly to try and convince ranking Vatican prelates that the Pope's life would be endangered if he visited Panama. They knew that his visit to Panama would show the world that we enjoy peace and security, contrary to what these men of the Christian Democratic Party have said. They were very careful not to mention that during [former Salvadoran] President Duarte's Christian Democratic regime two nuns and three laywomen were savagely murdered.

They have attacked other distinguished Panamanians whom they think will support Panamanian citizen Ruben Dario Paredes' candidacy, such as Carlos Eleta, Fernando Eleta, [Jose Gabriel] "Fito" Altamirano Duque, Dominador Bazan, and Dr Campo Elias Munoz. They have reached the extreme of pointing out that "naturalized Panamanians are dangerous if they participate in politics." With this statement they are accusing many naturalized Panamanians of Greek, Spanish, Jewish, and Chinese origin who have contributed in greater proportion to our progress than their accusers, who are not really democrats because they are trying to prevent others from participating in politics. Neither are they Christians, because they despise the blacks, the poor, the peasants and the Indians.

I warn once more that if these men of the vaunted Christian democracy do not manage to deter massive support for Panamanian Ruben Dario Paredes' candidacy, they will even try to eliminate him physically by contracting professional assassins, who are at their disposal.

Cordially, Julio M. Aldrete

CSO: 3248/1043

BRIEFS

COLON ECONOMIC SITUATION--The lack of maintenance of the installations that reverted to Panama under the canal treaties is exacerbating the economic crisis in Colon, said Alonso Fernandez, president of the Colon Chamber of Commerce. [Begin Fernandez recording] Colon has always lived off the sales of services. The economic situation has grown worse because of the increasing unemployment in Colon. It should not be blamed on the government but on the attitude of some governments which are protecting their own monetary systems. The Free Zone has virtually lost access to Central and South America, which were its biggest markets. However, we have unfortunately been unable to regain access to that area because of the economic situation in those countries. Colon is not a farming city. It has always lived off tourism. When the Canal Zone existed Colon lived off the jobs of a large number of people who worked for the U.S. Army and Navy, as well as the Panama Canal. Unfortunately, Panama has assumed all of these responsibilities under the treaty. You can see Colon Port now. It is deteriorating. Never in our history had we seen what is happening now. You can see the death trap we have, by which I mean the national railroad, I say national because it is ours. Unfortunately, it is not receiving the required maintenance. [end recording] [Text] [PA080355 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Jul 83]

CSO: 3248/1043

TERROR, INFLATION AFFLICTING COUNTRY

PY141831 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1953 GMT 11 Jul 83

[Report by Enrique Valls]

[Excerpts] Lima, 11 Jul (EFE)--The fifth and sixth horsemen of the Apocalypse, terror and inflation, keep afflicting Peru, while at the same time it has been announced that a new terrorist "red zone" had appeared in the country, and more price increases were accentuating inflation.

If terror is the "fifth horseman" as Lapierre and Collins say in their novel of the same title, inflation may be considered the sixth.

According to Interior Minister Luis Percovich, Huamachuco Province in La Libertad Department in the north has become a terrorist center and is looked upon by the security services as a "red zone," just like the bloodsoaked Ayacucho Department in the south.

According to reports released here today, the interior minister made this statement to the Chamber of Deputies National Commission for National Defense and Internal Order.

In turn, Carlos Cappelletti, American Revolutionary Popular Alliance (APRA) deputy for Ayacucho, said that the struggle against terrorism will last the 20 years at least and stated in press statements that the members of the terrorist organization Shining Path have taken a firm footing in various parts of that department, particularly in Huancapi and Cangallo Provinces.

Meanwhile, last week the prices of electricity and rice went up, and this weekend those of gasoline, kerosene, and gas for home use, as well as the national and international tariffs for the telephone, telegraph and telex services.

The gasoline price increase is an important inflationary factor, since it leads to higher transport costs, particularly for foodstuffs.

The gasoline price has increased by 100 percent in the last few months, while inflation from June 1982 until June 1983 was much more than 100 percent and was over 56 percent in the first 6 months of this year.

DETAILS OF ATTACK ON POPULAR ACTION HEADQUARTERS

Second Death Reported

PY140400 Paris AFP in Spanish 1604 GMT 12 Jul 83

[Excerpt] Lima, 12 Jul (AFP)--A second member of Popular Action [AP] has died, the victim of terrorism. He was hit by a bullet and bomb shrapnel during an attack on the national headquarters of the government party, carried out by the Shining Path last night.

At the party headquarters it was said that there are 26 wounded, hit by sub-machinegun fire, while one of the attackers was wounded by bullets fired by the only plainclothes police officer present. Three of the wounded are hovering between life and death.

Another of the attackers, disguised with a woman's wig, was detained by the same police officer, it was officially reported.

The officials said that the terrorists synchronized the attack with a blackout they brought about by blowing up a powerline pylon in the area where the Popular Action headquarters is located, and that they set off bombs in various parts of the city. The bombs exploded at the gates of the armored division, the Sheraton Hotel, the U.S. Embassy, the offices of the Japanese Mitsubishi Company, and at various buildings along two of the main avenues of the city. They added that there was some damage, although of no great importance.

A general dragnet operation was started immediately and about 150 suspects were detained who are now being interrogated.

Third Death Reported

PY130258 Paris AFP in Spanish 0219 GMT 13 Jul 83

[Text] Lima, 11 Jul (AFP)--A third person died here tonight as a result of the attack carried out last night by Shining Path terrorists against the local headquarters of the government party, the Popular Action Party [AP].

Teresa Zegarra, sister of deputy Aureo Zegarra of the pro-government block, died tonight in the hospital where operations had been performed for grave head wounds she had received.

Last night, in the attack with bombs and machineguns on the AP building in the centrally located Paseo Colon, Mario Arauco died and this morning Clorinda Saavedra also passed away.

BRIEFS

AYACUCHO, PASCO INCIDENTS--Three students, who were arrested for terrorism in Ayacucho, have been freed and claim to have been tortured by the authorities there during their detention. EL DIARO MARKA said that the police and army have executed 10 peasants in the town of Vinchos, Ayacucho Department, accusing them of being linked to the Shining Path movement. [words indistinct] the bullet-ridden body of Luis Flores Perez, a teacher, was found next to the body of a policeman at the Simon Bolivar Cultural Center in Ayacucho. Reports from Pasco indicate that numerous public employees have resigned because they were threatened by Shining Path. [Text] [PA140456 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 11 Jul 83]

CSO: 3348/549

DAILY APOLOGIZES TO BARBADOS' ADAMS

FL111803 Bridgetown CANA in English 2015 GMT 9 Jul 83

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 9 Jul (CANA)--The TRINIDAD GUARDIAN newspaper has publicly apologised to Barbados' Prime Minister Tom Adams for the "unfortunate interpretation" it gave to crucial bilateral discussions he had here this week with his Trinidad and Tobago counterpart George Chambers.

Mr Adams, one of 13 leaders who have just completed a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) heads of government conference here, had complained over a July 6 front page lead story that suggested Barbados was begging Trinidad and Tobago for a 10 million dollar U.S. loan to help in dealing with a liquidity problem.

The bilateral discussions Mr Adams pointed out had in fact centered on how Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago could together help liquidate its massive 98 million dollars (U.S.) debt under the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF), which had gone bust owing Barbados 65 million dollars (U.S.).

Mr Adams said he had been discussing with Mr Chambers a Port-of-Spain proposal that Barbados lend Guyana 49.7 million dollars (U.S.), with Trinidad in turn advancing some portion of that to Barbados.

Said the GUARDIAN in its front page apology: "The headline to the story which displeased Mr Adams, "bail us out of liquidity squeeze plea to Trinidad" was perhaps unfortunate and certainly not intended to embarrass Mr Adams or the Barbados Government."

The paper said its story had been based on the report of a special meeting of the CMCF held here July 1-2.

The CMCF, under which CARICOM member states trade in domestic currencies and settle 50 per cent of their balances every six months, in U.S. dollars, ran out of money April 1, due to Guyana's inability to pay its debt to the facility.

CSO: 3298/1289

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July 29, 1983